Torres says Kilili's criticism 'unfortunate' PAGE 2
SNILD chair: Let the judicial process take its course. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 182

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Court denies reinstating 9 firefighters

WAR GAMES AT FDM

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. TYLER HARMON

U.S. Marines with 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company disembark on Farallon de Medinilla in the Northern Mariana Islands from an MV-22 Osprey aircraft before a tactical air control party exercise with the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232. Inset, U.S. Marines and an airman observe an air strike during a tactical air control party exercise on Farallon de Medinilla.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the request for a preliminary injunction to reinstate the nine firefighters who were terminated from their jobs for insubordination for refusing to take the mandated COVID-19 vaccine.

In a 28-page order yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho denied the preliminary injunction requested by the nine firefight-

See COURT on Page 4

CNMI COVID-19 total now 252

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One more incoming traveler has tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 252.

The individual was identified by travel screening and was confirmed positive through arrival testing on Sunday, Sept. 12, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announcement yesterday.

See COVID on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:31pm, Sept. 13, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 80.2%

Days since last community transmission 173

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,751
Fully Vaccinated:	28,884
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,813
Fully Vaccinated:	4,345
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	777

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	12,379	*NU	12,379
Recovered	9,445	*NU	9,445
Active	2,776	*NU	2,776
Deaths	159	*NU	159

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	251	1	252
Traced via Travel Screening	214	1	215
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/
*NU = No Update

'Grab and Go Meals' suspended

» Program may resume in October

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

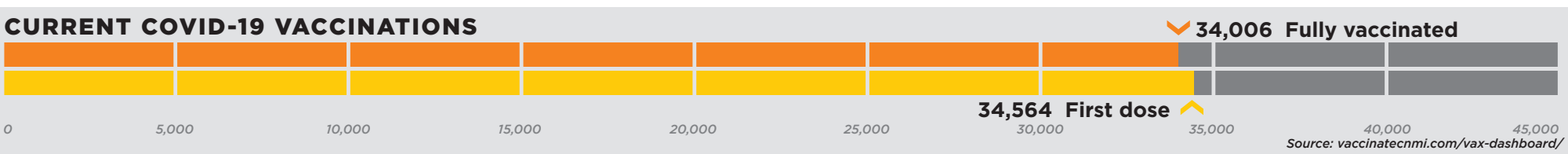
The CNMI Public School System has temporarily suspended its "Grab and Go Meals" program effective last Friday, Sept. 10.

According to an announcement on its website, PSS said the "Grab and Go Meals" program, which was launched on Aug. 30 to provide meals to hybrid-learning students who were doing their classes at home, is being suspended temporarily due to a "lack of participation." It said the program may resume in October.

In a phone call Monday with Child Nutrition Program director Dale Roberts, he said that for the two weeks that eight meal pick-up locations

See GRAB on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

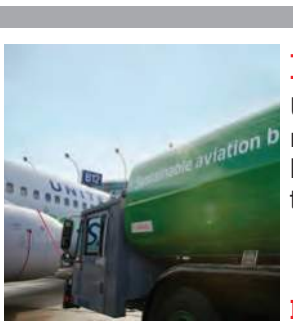


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

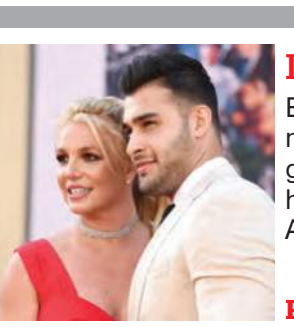
LOCAL
Northern Marianas College names the recipients of its 2021 PROA Employee Awards.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS
United Airlines commits to purchase 1.5 billion gallons of sustainable aviation fuel.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE
Britney Spears announces her engagement Sunday to her boyfriend, Sam Asghari.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres says Kilili's criticism 'unfortunate'

» Governor assures administration is spending ARPA funds the right way to revive the CNMI's economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on Friday described as "unfortunate" the comments made by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) on some parts of his spending plan for the American Rescue Plan Act funds, and assured that he will spend the ARPA money the right way to revive the CNMI's economy.

Torres

If, in fact, Sablan has issues with the administration's spending plan for the ARPA funds, why did he not put that in the legislation that the House of Representatives had passed on how that money should be spent, Torres asked.

Responding to a question raised during his radio press briefing last Friday, Torres said he, along with the Department of Finance, was given the authority to spend ARPA funds and that they're going to spend it the right way. He said they are spending the ARPA money in the way they believe is going to help the CNMI economy.

Sablan recently described portions of Torres' spending plan for ARPA funds as "reckless disregard" of the public treasury. Sablan had stated, among other things, that the CNMI has been spending money on hotels for the Travel Bubble program with South Korea, subsidizing each flight for $45,000 and giving travelers' spending money. He pointed out, though, that the CNMI got less than a hundred people who took part in the Travel Bubble program.

Sablan

The CNMI received $481.8 million in ARPA funding, with $141.3 million to be spent in fiscal year 2021 and $340.5 million in fiscal year 2022.

In responding last Friday, Torres underscored the need to market the CNMI and that that's exactly what this Travel Bubble is. "You don't just wake up one day and promote the CNMI and expect that we're going to get 300,000 tourists coming in. You just don't," Torres said.

He said with the Travel Bubble program, they are seeing more tourists now. The governor said the Marianas Visitors Authority can share the numbers on what's projected in October and November.

Last Thursday, the MVA disclosed that because of the Travel Bubble program, they anticipate over 600 tourists from South Korea this month, with bookings to the CNMI surpassing the 600 mark just a week into September.

Torres also stated that he can't understand why the delegate criticized him for hiring 200 people on Saipan, 50 on Rota, and 50 on Tinian. "That's what the ARPA funds are for—to spend the money the right way. And make sure that those projects, infrastructure, and priorities are also met," he said.

The governor said that, with a billion dollars, they are indeed hiring more people as they are having not just the ARPA funds but also funds from other federal programs.

"You just don't have the capacity for every department to address those fundings," he said.

Torres said what Sablan is basically saying is that those 200 people that they're hiring on Saipan and those 100 hired on Tinian and Rota is not the right approach. "I believe in our decision to spend it and the way we're spending it the right way," he said.

NMTI identifies and contacts 20 adult high school students

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute was able to contact 20 out of 36 adult high school students who were taking high school-equivalent classes at the trade school but were unable to complete their studies due to NMTI's closure last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a partnership with NMC, these students can now continue their high school-equivalent education by completing NMC's Adult Basic Education program.

It was previously reported that there were 36 adult high school students who did not complete NMTI's "adult vocational technical high school program" and that concerns regarding these students were brought up during NMTI's appearance at a Senate hearing earlier this month.

In an interview with NMTI's student services and curriculum coordinator Meena Benavente on Thursday, she said she and NMTI staff combed through many file cabinets and computer records and were able to find the names and contact information of 20 of the 36 adult high school students. Benavente and others at NMTI have already begun contacting these students and are pointing them toward NMC's ABE program and invites the remaining 16 to call NMTI at 323-6600 and ask for Benavente or Jerry Pangelinan.

Benavente said Thursday that due to the pandemic, the ABE program is completely online, but the program and NMTI itself offers many accommodations to ensure that these students complete their studies. Upon completion of the ABE program, students receive a certificate of completion equivalent to a high school diploma.

Benavente mentioned that NMC has a loaner program, where ABE students can receive a laptop on loan in case that they do not have their own personal computers. Benavente also mentioned that the college offers physical weekly activity packets for those who are not as tech-savvy or are intimidated by technology. These packets can be picked up at NMTI or NMC, and are submitted weekly to NMC's ABE coordinator Franklin Palacios.

For adult high school students with limited to no internet access at home, Benavente

See NMTI on Page 4

SNILD chair: Let the judicial process take its course

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), who chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said that they can revisit if necessary and proper Saipan Local Law 22-6, which essentially doubles the license fees of e-gaming machines, but only after the Superior Court has rendered a decision on a lawsuit filed by the owners of e-gaming venues Club 88 and Saipan Vegas, or the lawsuit is withdrawn.

Unless and until the court says otherwise, SLL 22-6 is currently the law and until the court renders its decision on the matter or the injunction is withdrawn, negotiations cannot take place outside of this judicial process, Sablan said.

"Either we litigate or we legislate. We aren't going to do both. The petitioners can't have it both ways," he said.

Mariana Entertainment LLC and MP Holdings LLC, owners of Club 88 in Garapan and Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau, respectively, has sued the Department of Finance to halt the implementation of SLL-22-6. The plaintiffs, through lawyer Michael Dotts, asked the court to declared SLL 22-6 void, unconstitutional, and invalid.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who is handling the lawsuit, has encouraged SNILD and the plaintiffs, to discuss the effects of the bill. The hearing will be this Thursday.

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He said the new tax imposed by SLL 22-6 will force Saipan Vegas and Club 88 to permanently shut down and leave over a 100 people jobless and unable to care for their families.

Sablan said yesterday that any communications or negotiations should have taken place before an injunction was sought against the Department of Finance.

House Local Bill 22-8 was introduced and signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Aug. 2, making it SLL-22-6.

Sablan said the petitioners/plaintiffs of the injunction felt that the process by which SNILD passed HLB 22-8 was contrary to the law that states that the mayor shall have 30 days to comment on legislations. "This is clearly untrue," said Sablan, pointing out that between the time the bill was introduced and the time they passed it, the mayor had more than 30 days to comment.

He said presently, because of the lawsuit, the Superior Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the CNMI Constitution.

"The petitioners caused this. They filed their lawsuit before they asked to negotiate," Sablan pointed out.

Accordingly, he said, out of respect for the process, they should let the court decide on the concerns of both parties, then they can move on.

Sablan said just as there is a judicial process to interpret the laws of the land, there is also a legislative process to introduce, amend, repeal and/or re-enact legislations in accordance with pertinent rule of the Legislature.

"We followed our rules and the law despite the allegations to the contrary," he said.

SLL 22-6 imposed a $2,500 tax or 15% of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater, on all electronic gaming devices on Saipan, including poker amusement machines within e-gaming facilities or hotels. This is on top of the $2,500 license fee these companies are already paying to the government for each machine.

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The governor said he hopes that SNILD will return and reassess how the government can keep the company or any other potential companies that will come in.

Manglona expects budget bill talks to be smooth

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REPORTER

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), the House of Representatives chairperson on the bicameral conference committee, said yesterday that they expect that their meeting will not take long to work out a mutually acceptable budget bill for the CNMI government operations in fiscal year 2022.

Manglona

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The joint conference committee meeting regarding the budget bill, House Bill 22-74, HD3, SD1, will be held in the House chamber this Friday at 1:30pm.

The committee will be working on a deadline to ensure that they come up with a budget bill that the Legislature will pass and bring to the table of Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Without a budget for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

At the Aug. 31 House session, all 15 Representatives present voted to reject the Senate's version of the $144.84-million budget bill for fiscal year 2022.

During discussions, Manglona said they appreciate the Senate's speedy review and approval of certain provisions that the House had proposed but there are provisions in the Senate version that they would like to address in the conference committee, particularly the salary adjustments for Cabinet members.

From the $144,848,801 total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022, minus debt service, this leaves the government $98,897,301 that's available for appropriation. Including the $4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is $103,384,323.

On top of that is the $175 million allocated to the CNMI in the American Rescue Plan Act. This means the senators appropriated $278,384,323 in combined general local funds and ARPA funds.

CUC ADVISORIES

Updates on emergency water service interruption in Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to update the public on the emergency water service interruption that occurred Sunday for customers in the Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan areas.

Customers in the Kagman 1 area have already received water services yesterday but CUC customers located along Brother's Market to Kagman 3 Phase 4 remains offline until further notice. In addition, customers in Kagman 3 will have no water service from 7pm last night to today, Sept. 14, at 6am. CUC's operators are still troubleshooting in the Kagman 1 and 2 areas to identify the cause of the problem by performing leak detection. Updates on this water service interruption will follow as soon as they are available. ***(CUC)***

Scheduled power interruption on Sept. 18

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, from 8:30am to 2:30pm for a portion of Airport Road. As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace rotted wooden power poles to concrete poles along Tun Herman Pan Road in Airport Road Dandan.

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya I Circuit

■ Project location: Tun Herman Pan Road in Airport Road Dandan

■ Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Airport Road Dandan (Commerce Place, Skydive Place, Gapet Lane, Kaling Drive, Dancing Place, Ganggoche Drive, Tuba Lane, Exploring Drive, Swimming Lane, Tourist Loop, Diving Lane, Langet Place, Saagh Place, and Sineso Lane). See attached map.

■ Water well(s) affected:

1.) DD-7 Well (Water services for entire the San Vicente, Upper Dandan and Obyan areas might be affected based on tank level).

2.) DD-8 and IF-105 Wells (Water services for Airport Road, Chaim Monsignor Martinez Road from Shell Dandan to ABCD Market, As Lito, portions of As Perdido and Koblerville and Tottotville might be affected based on tank level).

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: A13 and A14 Lift Stations. ***(CUC)***

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

Rodney S. Cabarles, Chairman · Joseph T. San Nicolas, Vice Chairman · Joanna C. Aldan, Secretary · Ringo C. Reyes, Treasurer · Vacant, Board Member

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 · San Jose Village · Tinian, MP 96952
E-Mail: tinianscholarship@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-0504
Facsimile: (670) 433-0504

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
• February 26, 2021 (TMSB Special Meeting)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
A. Planning of Board's Activities for Spring 2021
B. TMSB Chairman's Official Leave
C. Acting Chairperson while Chairman is on leave
D. Discussion on the Availability of Funding
E. Discussion on the Availability of Funding for TJSHS Salutatorian and Valedictorian
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-035
SUBMISSION DATE: September 29, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1253 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 31, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 17, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1253**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 22, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HELEN C. SABLAN
STATE MEDICAID AGENCY DIRECTOR

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, September 15, 2021*** at 8am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(08/11/2021)**
V. Public Comments
• Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
• Final Certification of Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
• License Fees Online Payment
• Update on HB 22-26 – Removal of term limitations for HCPLB
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
• SB 22-05 To Establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes
X. Old Business
• Addiction Professionals Proposed Regulation
XI. New Business
• Proposed Amendments to the Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
• Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
• Dr. Todd Ozdych
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

SNILD chair: Let the judicial process take its course

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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The joint conference committee meeting regarding the budget bill, House Bill 22-74, HD3, SD1, will be held in the House chamber this Friday at 1:30pm.

The committee will be working on a deadline to ensure that they come up with a budget bill that the Legislature will pass and bring to the table of Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Without a budget for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

At the Aug. 31 House session, all 15 Representatives present voted to reject the Senate's version of the $144.84-million budget bill for fiscal year 2022.

During discussions, Manglona said they appreciate the Senate's speedy review and approval of certain provisions that the House had proposed but there are provisions in the Senate version that they would like to address in the conference committee, particularly the salary adjustments for Cabinet members.

From the $144,848,801 total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022, minus debt service, this leaves the government $98,897,301 that's available for appropriation. Including the $4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is $103,384,323.

On top of that is the $175 million allocated to the CNMI in the American Rescue Plan Act. This means the senators appropriated $278,384,323 in combined general local funds and ARPA funds.

CUC ADVISORIES

Updates on emergency water service interruption in Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to update the public on the emergency water service interruption that occurred Sunday for customers in the Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan areas.

Customers in the Kagman 1 area have already received water services yesterday but CUC customers located along Brother's Market to Kagman 3 Phase 4 remains offline until further notice. In addition, customers in Kagman 3 will have no water service from 7pm last night to today, Sept. 14, at 6am. CUC's operators are still troubleshooting in the Kagman 1 and 2 areas to identify the cause of the problem by performing leak detection. Updates on this water service interruption will follow as soon as they are available. ***(CUC)***

Scheduled power interruption on Sept. 18

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, from 8:30am to 2:30pm for a portion of Airport Road. As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace rotted wooden power poles to concrete poles along Tun Herman Pan Road in Airport Road Dandan.

■ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya I Circuit

■ Project location: Tun Herman Pan Road in Airport Road Dandan

■ Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Airport Road Dandan (Commerce Place, Skydive Place, Gapet Lane, Kaling Drive, Dancing Place, Ganggoche Drive, Tuba Lane, Exploring Drive, Swimming Lane, Tourist Loop, Diving Lane, Langet Place, Saagh Place, and Sineso Lane). See attached map.

■ Water well(s) affected:

1.) DD-7 Well (Water services for entire the San Vicente, Upper Dandan and Obyan areas might be affected based on tank level).

2.) DD-8 and IF-105 Wells (Water services for Airport Road, Chaim Monsignor Martinez Road from Shell Dandan to ABCD Market, As Lito, portions of As Perdido and Koblerville and Tottotville might be affected based on tank level).

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: A13 and A14 Lift Stations. ***(CUC)***

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

Rodney S. Cabarles, Chairman · Joseph T. San Nicolas, Vice Chairman · Joanna C. Aldan, Secretary · Ringo C. Reyes, Treasurer · Vacant, Board Member

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 · San Jose Village · Tinian, MP 96952
E-Mail: tinianscholarship@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-0504
Facsimile: (670) 433-0504

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
• February 26, 2021 (TMSB Special Meeting)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
A. Planning of Board's Activities for Spring 2021
B. TMSB Chairman's Official Leave
C. Acting Chairperson while Chairman is on leave
D. Discussion on the Availability of Funding
E. Discussion on the Availability of Funding for TJSHS Salutatorian and Valedictorian
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-035
SUBMISSION DATE: September 29, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.
"Renovation of Government House No. 1253 Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 31, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 17, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1253**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 22, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HELEN C. SABLAN
STATE MEDICAID AGENCY DIRECTOR

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, September 15, 2021*** at 8am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(08/11/2021)**
V. Public Comments
• Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
• Final Certification of Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
• License Fees Online Payment
• Update on HB 22-26 – Removal of term limitations for HCPLB
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
• SB 22-05 To Establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes
X. Old Business
• Addiction Professionals Proposed Regulation
XI. New Business
• Proposed Amendments to the Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
• Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
• Dr. Todd Ozdych
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

CNMI local businesses attend trade show under STEP Grant

From left to right, James Rabauliman Jr. of Hybrid Shop, Kioshi Cody of the CNMI Department of Commerce, and Deron Mendiola of Marianas Trench Sea Salt at the Affordable Shopping Destination Market Week, which took place from Aug. 22 to 25, 2021 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Two small business owners from the CNMI were recently selected by the CNMI Department of Commerce to attend the Affordable Shopping Destination Market Week gift show from Aug. 22 to 25 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Marianas Trench Sea Salt and the Hybrid Shop qualified to attend the trade show under a federal grant known as the State Trade Expansion Program, or STEP.

Marianas Trench Sea Salt owner Deron Mendiola has been looking forward to exhibiting his locally-produced Pacific sea salt to thousands of potential buyers. The Rota-based business has been working with the CNMI Department of Commerce to refine his product and get it trade-show ready.

"I'm very humbled and grateful for the CNMI STEP team's support and for giving me a chance to attend my very first trade show. This will help me grow my business and hopefully provide jobs to my fellow people on Rota. I'm proud to show the world that Rota products can compete on a global scale," said Mendiola.

The Hybrid Shop is a Saipan-based retail store providing locally-made products ranging from dye-sublimated sports apparel/masks to high resolution photos on metal and acrylic. Owner James Rabauliman Jr. has recently expanded into personalized license plates and high-quality *lapidas*. He is also participating in his first ever trade show.

"At first I was nervous with the massive number of vendors and buyers present. But after talking to a lot of potential buyers just on Day 1, I got comfortable and started to connect naturally with everyone who came by our booth. I want to thank the CNMI STEP team for believing in me and giving me a chance to exhibit at ASD Market Week. This was an incredible opportunity for a small business owner like me," said Rabauliman.

ASD Market Week is a semiannual event held in Las Vegas, NV. The gift-themed event featured 19,148 attendees on the first day and 1,300 vendors participating (www.asdonline.com).

Marianas Visitors Authority provided giveaways to high-potential buyers so that the CNMI STEP team could promote the entirety of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero said this is a unique opportunity for CNMI entrepreneurs to represent the Marianas on a national platform.

"I am very proud that we were able to work with the Department of Finance and the Governor's Office to make this trip possible. This is a wonderful opportunity to have our entrepreneurs think beyond our islands and give them a platform to do so. We are eager to see more participation from Tinian and Rota on the STEP grant. We're invested in Rota and Tinian's success and look forward to helping them grow their business," said Deleon Guerrero.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is proud of the business owners and what they have accomplished at the ASD Market Week gift show.

"It is great that our local businesses have opportunities like this through our Department of Commerce. This was made possible through the STEP grant, our federal partnerships, and our hardworking local agencies, which allow our business owners to showcase and market their products while representing the Marianas. Providing opportunities for our local businesses to export their products and reach target markets abroad will allow them to grow and prosper, creating more local job opportunities while broadcasting the Marianas to the world," said Torres.

STEP is a state-federal partnership funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The intent of the grant is to provide financial assistance to local businesses wanting to export internationally as well to increase market expansion for those currently exporting.

The CNMI Department of Commerce is the administrator of the STEP grant and provides resources such as export training, product labeling/packaging, website translation, and business matchmaking. Through this program, STEP clients can also qualify to exhibit at a sponsored trade show.

For more information on how to become a CNMI STEP client, visit www.commerce.gov.mp/cnmi-step. You can also email CNMI.STEP@commerce.gov.mp or call (670) 664-3065 Ext. 108. ***(PR)***

COURT

From Page 1

ers to reinstate them—either as firefighters or in any department within the government—while their lawsuit is pending in court.

According to Camacho, the court denied the firefighters' request for multiple reasons, one being that the public's interest in protecting the health of the whole CNMI and preventing the spread of COVID-19 outweighs the privacy and other interests of the nine individual firefighters.

"The public interest in protecting the privacy rights of a few individuals is outweighed by the public interest in protecting the health and safety of the entire community. For these reasons…the court declines to grant a preliminary injunction," Camacho said.

The plaintiffs argued that the Commonwealth will suffer minimal hardship in taking the plaintiffs back to work, while the CNMI government and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services contend that the harm caused by the spread of COVID-19 outweighs the harm of a vaccine mandate.

In this argument, Camacho said the court had to find whether the public interests in favor of granting an injunction "outweigh other public interests that cut in favor of not issuing the injunction."

Camacho noted that the public interest in being able to trust the DFEMS and the public's willingness to call emergency services in a crisis must also be added to this balancing of interests.

"The passing of an injunction reinstating firefighters who have chosen not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine because it had not yet been approved by the [Food and Drug Administration]—an objection which is now moot, of course, as the FDA has issued its approval for several COVID-19 vaccines—risks undermining the public's trust in DFEMS," he said.

Camacho added that there are also members of the community who have not been vaccinated and are especially vulnerable to transmission, including children under the age of 12 and immunocompromised individuals.

"Even if the plaintiffs are reinstated with accommodations that prevent them from any direct interaction with the public, members of the public may not feel safe calling DFEMS in an emergency situation if a member of their household has not been vaccinated. It is an issue of life and death when the public cannot call the DFEMS to provide rescue and emergency assistance because the firefighters and medical personnel are unvaccinated. In this regard, the public interest outweighs the concerns of the plaintiffs," Camacho stated.

He also noted in his order that the plaintiffs are firefighters and emergency responders serving the greater interest of public health and safety in a time of a global pandemic.

"As emergency responders, they have made a commitment to protect public health and safety. Therefore, they do not necessarily have a reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to the right to refuse what is now an FDA-approved vaccine, without qualifying for a medical or religious exemption, when they are frontline workers in a global health emergency. Having received FDA-approval, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is no different than the other approved vaccines that are being required across the country in order to prevent infectious diseases and protect public health and safety," Camacho said.

GRAB

From Page 1

were open, each would regularly only serve around 10 meals a day. For the sake of feasibility and minimizing the number of unclaimed meals, the decision was made to suspend the program. Roberts, however, assured that the program will come back when needed.

When asked for possible reasons why the program—which was originally set to run this year from Aug. 30 to Sept. 24—saw few participants, Roberts speculated that the pick-up times may have been inconvenient to some parents. The pick-up days and times were from Monday to Friday, 10am to 11am, and Roberts said this timeframe sometimes coincided with the days and times that food stamps were being distributed.

Roberts added that the last time the program was launched, many parents who were out of work availed of the program for their children. This year, Roberts speculated and hoped that these parents got back to work, but said it could be possible that these parents are now too busy to avail of the program.

In March last year, *Saipan Tribune* reported that over 1,000 meals were distributed on the first day that the CNP launched the "Grab and Go Meals" program.

Roberts further speculated that there are currently many other ongoing avenues of aid, whether it be through stimulus checks, Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer funds, or other current forms of government-distributed welfare that those in need are currently availing of.

According to the PSS website, the "Grab and Go Meals" program was launched this year in response to hybrid learning, as half of a school's student population do their learning on-campus, and the other half virtually at home. The program was intended to provide access to nutritious meals for students studying virtually since they would have normally claimed their meals if they were on-campus.

COVID

From Page 1

The individual has been quarantined and is being monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has initiated contact tracing for those who were in most immediate contact with the individual. CHCC also reported yesterday that there are currently no active hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

In related news, responding to an inquiry about how CHCC determines the total number of individuals eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines, a CHCC representative said yesterday that multiple sources are used, because the 2020 Census data for the CNMI is not completely available at this time.

Currently, the only available 2020 Census data for the CNMI is last year's congressional districts and overall island numbers, but these numbers are not categorized by age. To make accurate COVID-19 vaccination projections, CHCC needs these numbers categorized from the number of individuals aged 12 and older, 12 to 18 years old, 18 and older, and so on.

To create these categories, CHCC uses the 2021 Census International Database and extrapolations of 2010 Census numbers, because the 2010 data featured age breakdowns for each island and the CNMI as a whole. "Extrapolation" is a term in statistics where future numbers are predicted using past numbers, assuming that existing trends in past data will continue.

The U.S. Census Bureau's section on the CNMI in its International Database can be found at https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/idb/#/country?YR_ANIM=2021&COUNTRY_YR_ANIM=2021&FIPS_SINGLE=CQ.

NMTI

From Page 2

said that students are welcome to go to NMTI's facility in Lower Base, use its free internet, and complete their studies there.

Benavente said that NMTI's adult high school students who are U.S. citizens, green card holders, or long-term residents can participate in the ABE program free of charge, but for past adult high school students who are in the CNMI on a contract worker visa such as the CW-1 or CW-2 visas, there will be a fee of $40 per class.

Benavente thanked the community for raising concerns about the 36 students and thanked NMC for partnering with NMTI to help these students complete their studies.

"We really appreciate the team of individuals who brought this matter to NMTI's attention, and now we appreciate NMC's Adult Basic Education program for allowing these former students a shot at success and obtaining their high school-equivalent [certificate]", said Benavente. Applications for NMC's ABE program can be picked up at the college.

Palacios says he will appear before JGO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will continue its hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios as its witness.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) confirmed yesterday that Palacios will testify at the hearing that will start at 10:30am.

The JGO, which is looking into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels, has agreed to subpoena both Torres and Palacios.

Palacios confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he will be complying with the subpoena and attending the JGO hearing.

He said he has no lawyer and will be going by himself.

He said he received the subpoena to testify last Friday at 5pm.

The JGO's scheduled hearing last Friday did not push through after Babauta cancelled it so they can meet with Anthony Aguon, who is counsel for Boating Safety Lt. Henry Emery Kaipat, Boating Safety officer Kevin Aldan, and other witnesses from the Department of Public Safety.

Babauta said they had to discuss some concerns first with Aguon. She said Aguon claims that some sensitive information was exposed during Kaipat's testimony.

The JGO also intends to subpoena Torres, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and several others.

Former SHRM president Magofna is appointed CEC commissioner

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on Thursday appointed Proserpina T. Magofna to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the Third Senatorial District or Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Torres disclosed his nomination of Magofna as commissioner when asked during his radio press briefing Friday about any plan to fill up the four vacant commissioner's positions.

The appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent. If confirmed, Magofna will serve a four-year term that will expire on July 21, 2025.

Magofna is a former president of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter. She is currently employed by Crowne Plaza (the former Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan). She used to serve as human resource personnel for Laulau Bay Resort and Best Sunshine, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

CEC's scheduled board meeting last Friday did not push through due to a lack of quorum.

CEC currently has five commissioners and vice chair Doris Ann Aldan-Atalig of Saipan could not make it to the meeting as she was off-island that day.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said five commissioners constitute a quorum and at least one member from each senatorial district should be present.

With the appointment of Magofna, there are three more vacant commissioner's positions—two for Saipan and one for Tinian.

Last Friday, the CEC commissioners were supposed to certify the candidacy of Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party, and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party for the Oct. 16 special election to fill a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat. The special election will be held because of the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco last July 23. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 057 Revised
Opening Date: September 3, 2021
Closing Date: September 17, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Administration**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Gather, assembles, updates, processes and/or distributes forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and or records; reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content; resolves discrepancies; prepares information for processing and disseminates and/or maintains documentation.
- Routes confidential documents for signatures of officials at various agencies.
- Packages and routes mail for pick up and drop off.
- Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Provides reception duties and responds to request for information; provides customer support with completing forms and answering routine questions; refers to inquiries as required to the appropriate resource; and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Enters data in systems or on documents; organizes and maintains files, records, logs, and/or timesheets, ensure file integrity and retention of records and documentation according to established procedures.
- Retrieves and/or prepares reports, correspondence, documents, deposits, account adjustments and other related documentation.
- Monitors supplies; materials and/or equipment inventory; prepares requisitions replenishment of supplies ore required services; monitors order status, coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick-up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Monitors scheduling needs for meetings, equipment maintenance, and/or other relevant service requirements; schedules and coordinates appointments, resources and/or services.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and record keeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service; Filing, organizing, imaging and maintaining records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 066
Opening Date: September 2, 2021
Closing Date: September 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician, Machinist**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Operates and maintains lathe, milling machines and machine tools.
- Reviews blueprints, sketches, drawings, manuals, specification, or sample part to determine dimensions and tolerances of finished workpiece, sequence of operations and set requirements.
- Measures, marks, and scribes dimensions and reference points on material or work-piece as guides for subsequent machining as necessary.
- Selects, aligns, and secures holding fixtures, cutting tools, attachments, accessories, and materials on machines as necessary to machine parts as required.
- Calculates and sets controls to regulate machining factors such as speed, feed, coolant flow and depth and angle of cut according to established guidelines and procedures.
- Starts and observes machine operation to detect malfunctions or out-of-tolerance machining, and adjusts machine controls or control media as required.
- Verifies conformance of finished work-piece to specifications, using measuring and inspection tools as necessary.
- Sets up and operates machine on trial run to verify accuracy of machine settings.
- Takes precise measurements for cutting or shaping.
- Selects appropriate machine and settings for a given task.
- Plans proper sequence of tasks to complete the assignment.
- Monitors adjusting feed and other settings as necessary.
- Identifies need for and performs machine maintenance and minor repairs.
- Maintains a safe and clean workstation.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related tasks as needed.
- Confers with senior engineer or others to resolve machining problems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Apprenticeship or vocational training preferred.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Strong attention to details and accuracy; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift up to 50 pounds and perform repetitive tasks.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 067
Opening Date: September 3, 2021
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	**Engineer, P.E.**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water & Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$100,000.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer, P.E. or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects.
- Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations.
- Developing scope of work, providing technical reviews;
- Surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and recommending award of projects.
- Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects data and performs research.
- Troubleshoots systems and equipment.
- Reviews work performed by engineers.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch. Experience of five (5) or more years as a professional engineer.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical concepts, construction principles; project management principles; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading and interpreting scaled drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Professional Engineer License
  - o Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
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FAM TOURS: SMALL INVESTMENTS, BIG RETURNS

$1M worth of exposure from latest FAM Tour

Familiarization tours—or FAM tours for short—are an important and cost-effective tool used by the Marianas and other destinations to attract visitors by generating more exposure of the destination.

The Marianas Visitors Authority periodically hosts FAM tours for media, travel agents, airlines, and other travel industry representatives to become familiar with what Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands have to offer potential visitors. For a relatively small financial investment, FAM tours generate large returns in publicity and sales.

In partnership with local companies, the MVA may support FAM tour participants with various services needed. For these minimum investments, the Marianas can receive millions of dollars in return with a single FAM tour, although the average return in usually more conservative.

"FAM tours have always been one of the most effective tools the MVA uses to get the word out about the Marianas, and the return-on-investment is substantial, and important consideration with our limited budget compared to other destinations," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "Especially with the strong support of our local tourism partners and their donations—such as meals, accommodations, activities, or even airfare—FAM tours are an excellent way to encourage the creation of more media coverage of and tour packages selling The Marianas."

Travel agents from Korea tour popular dive site Grotto on Saipan in July 2021. MVA

Travel agents from South Korea tour I Love Saipan on Saipan in July 2021. MVA

Most recently, the MVA generated over $1 million worth of exposure with a FAM tour in July, when representatives of major travel agencies and airlines and 10 media and social media channels in South Korea toured Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to support the resumption of direct international flights between the two destinations and to ensure the destination was suitable for travel resumption.

Participants included Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, T'Way, Yellow Balloon Tour, Hana Tour Global Tour, Interpark, Online Tour, Hanjin Tour, Tide Square, Ttravel Biz, Naeil Tour, TTL News, Sports Seoul, and TV travel show Eudiny. Also participating were Naver bloggers Joanlee and Ellena Park Eunha, Naver blogger and Instagrammer Ryufillfoto, Sanaella YouTube and Instagram channels youlakk and Yo:oN the Road, and Instagrammer _peppermint.b and Kelly_ing. The FAM tour exposure value to date includes $450,000 through travel agencies, $429,000 through social media influencers, $90,000 through airlines, and $69,000 through media.

"The response of the FAM tour participants was overwhelmingly positive, which is so important in restoring traveler confidence in the Marianas," said Iakopo. "Almost all of them—including key decision makers from the airlines and travel agencies—have also publicly endorsed the Marianas to their customers and viewers as a result of what they observed and experienced during their tour. The value of that is immeasurable during these times. Already, we are seeing steady yet manageable increases in bookings for the Marianas over the next four months, largely as a result of that one FAM tour."

FAM tours equip participants to convincingly promote or sell the destination based on first-hand experience. Social media posts also provide immediate and sometimes live exposure of the destination.

At this time, the MVA is projecting approximately 3,800 visitors from Korea through Dec. 31, 2021. Iakopo noted that actual arrivals may differ dependent on evolving COVID-19 policies and guidelines in both the Marianas and Korea, as well as consumer sentiment. ***(MVA)***

CHCC awarded $522.7K for telehealth capabilities

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was awarded $522,722 by the Federal Communications Commission for telehealth devices to expand outpatient telemedicine services, particularly for patients living on Rota and Tinian who would otherwise require air travel to access care, thereby reducing their exposure to COVID-19.

"CHCC continues to utilize telehealth/telemedicine to enhance and provide services for our patients in the CNMI, especially Tinian and Rota," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña. "This technology was helpful with our hospital operations during the initial months of the pandemic, and this award is greatly appreciated as we look to expand our offerings to better serve our patients."

Since March 2020, a total of 276 visits were registered under telemedicine/telehealth.

CHCC plans to purchase laptops, tablets, and headsets with the award, allowing community health workers to work in the field while communicating with providers. Internet connectivity on Tinian and Rota are currently undergoing upgrades.

The devices are integral to patient care, establishing a reliable network connection to sustain patient-provider communications for expanded telemedicine services, including outpatient primary care, community health worker access, ultrasound, and optometry.

The FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program supports the efforts of healthcare providers to continue serving their patients by providing reimbursement for telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices necessary to enable telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. ***(CHCC)***

NMC student body elects new officers

Northern Marianas College students recently elected new officers to the college's student government body, or the Associated Students of NMC.

The new officers are: Alyssa Attao, president; Gerald Crisostomo Jr., vice president; Jefferson Cunanan, secretary; Duncan Laxa, treasurer; and Maritoni Duarte and Eloise Lopez, senators.

"I am honored to have been chosen to serve the students of the Northern Marianas College as president," said Attao, a 20-year-old education major in her fourth year at NMC and elected to the ASNMC board as treasurer back in 2020.

"I would like to thank all the NMC students who have trusted me to represent them," Attao added.

Crisostomo, a 22-year-old freshman business major, said he is excited to serve this term as vice president. "I feel honored that the students of NMC have chosen me to represent them," Crisostomo said. "I will work hard to ensure that NMC always has the best interests of students in mind in every decision the college makes."

Cunanan, a 19-year-old Liberal Arts major freshman, said he is happy with the results of the election. "It feels really gratifying to know that the students of NMC entrusted me with such a big responsibility," Cunanan said. "It is a big responsibility to take on, but I am ready and willing to do my best as [the students'] ASNMC secretary."

Cunanan also thanked his supervisors, Alexis Manglona and Maia Pangelinan, for encouraging him to run.

Attao

Crisostomo

Cunanan

Laxa

Duarte

Lopez

Laxa, the newly-elected student body treasurer, is a 20-year-old business major who has been taking classes at NMC for more than two years.

"Throughout the [election] process, I was excited but also very nervous," Laxa said. "I believe that the outcome of the election gave me a great opportunity for me to challenge myself and improve my leadership skills."

Laxa thanks his constituents for supporting him in this election, and thanks Michaela Gatdula for encouraging him to step out of his comfort zone.

Incoming ASNMC senator Duarte said she is honored to have been elected to the student government body. "I am excited to start working with my ASNMC colleagues to begin representing our fellow students," Duarte said.

A 29-year-old business major, Duarte has been at NMC for more than nine years. She has received a liberal arts degree and nursing degree from the college.

"I would like to thank all the students of NMC who voted and made their voices heard," Duarte added.

Lopez, a re-elected senator, said she is excited to serve this term. "The journey starts here and I am excited to see what we can offer to all our students as student leaders of NMC," Lopez said. "I am excited to distribute the ideas that we will create together and I believe that the team that we have will do bigger and greater things!"

Lopez is a 23-year-old natural resource management and elementary education major at the college.

"I want to thank my family for believing in me once more again to be a part of our next ASNMC cohort, my friends from the states and here for continued to help me spread the awareness, my work staff for encouraging to apply, and overall—the continuous support of the students at the Northern Marianas College," Lopez added.

ASNMC is a student-driven governance body at the college. Its executive cabinet is composed of students who are elected at large by the student body and serve a one-year term in office.

This year's student government elections took place on Aug. 30 and 31, 2021.

For more information about ASNMC, visit marianas.edu or email asnmc@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC recognizes outstanding employees

As part of its ongoing effort to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of its employees, Northern Marianas College recently named the recipients of its 2021 Annual PROA Employee Awards. The awards were presented at NMC's Labor Day picnic held last Sept. 4, 2021, at Micro Beach.

The awards recognize employees' outstanding performance, contribution to NMC, and their commitment to student learning.

The Faculty, Non-Instructional Faculty, Staff, Supervisor, and Counselor of the Year each received a certificate of recognition along with $100 in cash. The Employee of the Year received a plaque and $300. Selection of the awards were made by a committee composed of staff and faculty.

Barbara "Bobbie" Hunter, center, is awarded the NMC Faculty of the Year award. In photo with Hunter is NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, left, and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right. NMC

Kaelani Demapan, center, is awarded the NMC Counselor of the Year award. In photo with Demapan is NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, left, and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right. NMC

Barnaby Lizama, center, is awarded the NMC Supervisor of the Year award. In photo with Lizama is his son, Josiah; NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, left, and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right. NMC

Geraldine "Geri" Rodgers, center, ias awarded the NMC Staff of the Year award. In photo with Rodgers is NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, left, and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right. NMC

William Hunter, center, is awarded the NMC Employee and Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year award. In photo with Hunter is NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, left, and NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right. NMC

Employee of the Year and Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year

William Hunter, the Distance Learning coordinator at NMC, was recognized as the overall Employee of the Year and as the Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year.

"I am extremely humbled and consider myself very blessed to have been acknowledged by my NMC family members," Hunter said. "My work is a reflection of the hard work and teamwork exemplified by every NMC employee. I see the dedication and hard work by everyone on our NMC team every day and it motivates me to keep working hard."

Since 2017, Hunter has made significant changes and improvements to NMC's Learning Management System or LMS. Previously, the system housed under 50 courses, which included primarily online and hybrid courses.

For NMC's fall 2021 semester, the system is now home to over 260 courses, including web-enhanced, virtual, virtual-hybrid, hybrid, and online courses. With NMC students using NMC's LMS prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the majority of faculty trained to use the LMS, the pivot to online learning was smooth and encountered very few speed bumps.

Hunter said that he is very proud of the NMC students and staff for their flexibility and being able to adapt to disasters like Super Typhoon Yutu and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He is also grateful for his wife, Bobbie, his kids—Brianna, Brandee, and Brissa—and his mom.

"I am very grateful for our leadership at NMC, from our former interim president Frankie Eliptico, to our current president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, dean Charlotte Cepeda, dean Randy Yates, and our dedicated board of regents at NMC. These folks have really done amazing work to keep our *Proa* sailing forward," Hunter said. "NMC is truly blessed to have dedicated and hardworking employees who go above and beyond to make things happen."

Counselor of the Year

Also awarded was NMC Early Intervention counselor Kaelani Demapan as the college's Counselor of the Year. This is the second time Demapan has received the award.

"I am truly honored to be recognized as Counselor of the Year once again," Demapan said. "I'd like to thank my NMC family for this recognition but more importantly, my fellow counselors for their commitment to guiding our students and supporting each other during our most challenging time yet. Let this be a reminder to stay the course and keep going."

Demapan has been with NMC for about five years and is also a counselor for early admitted students and the advisor for the school's Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Staff Member of the Year

In addition to Demapan, Geraldine "Geri" Rodgers, an assessment specialist for NMC's Office of Institutional Effectiveness, was recognized as NMC's Staff Member of the Year.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be recognized for this award," Rodgers said. "I want to express gratitude to my fellow *Proas* whom I've had the privilege of working with. Special thanks to my team at the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and the Leadership Team for the many opportunities to serve. I work with wonderful people who use their talent and skills for the benefit of the college and the community. *Dankulu na si yu'us ma'ase!*"

Supervisor of the Year

Recognized as NMC's Supervisor of the Year was Barnaby Lizama, the interim facilities director for the college.

"An award is a virtue and is given by an organization. My organization consists of the best team players and I am glad to be with NMC," Lizama said. "I thank the college for recognizing me."

Lizama has been with NMC for more than 10 years now.

"I give so much respect and thanks to my kids, my parents, siblings, coworkers, friends and acquaintances," Lizama added.

Faculty of the Year

Barbara "Bobbie" Hunter, an assistant professor for NMC's School of Business, was recognized as NMC's Faculty of the Year.

"I feel so blessed and honored to have been chosen as Faculty of the Year at NMC—but I don't think I could have done it without the help and support of my family, the team at the School of Business, and everyone at NMC who has made it possible for students to enroll and take courses," Hunter said. "I know how challenging this past year was, but at the same time, I know we all share the joy of helping students grow to become contributing members of society, which makes it all worth it."

Hunter joined the School of Business in 2012 and has assisted with the development of the Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree. Prior to joining the school of Business, she was with the Human Resources office and has been serving the college since 1997.

For Hunter, her greatest joy is helping students succeed in enrolling and taking courses at NMC because she believes that even if a person took one or two classes, that person is on their way in helping this community be a better place to live in. ***(NMC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mocking vaccine resisters isn't helping

You've likely seen the headlines about COVID-19 killing radio hosts and activists who opposed vaccines and masks. Several of those headlines were about Caleb Wallace, a Texan who helped organize a "freedom rally" this summer to protest mask-wearing. Some corners of the internet reacted with ridicule to news of his death last month, sparing no thought to Wallace's grieving wife and daughters.

It's important that we all resist the impulse to scream, "I told you so!" Yes, it's maddening to find ourselves swept up in yet another wave of COVID-19 cases eight months into the rollout of vaccines that should have ended this pandemic by now. But every death is a tragedy and should be treated as such.

Mocking vaccine skeptics who've been fed misinformation won't convince people on the fence to get vaccinated. Our inclination should be to show others that we care about them, not to win an argument.

Dallas County has been bombarding people with opportunities to get vaccinated. We appreciate officials' unrelenting efforts to expand access to the vaccine, but their main hurdle now is resistance to the science and to the messengers. The tone of the message matters greatly.

A Census Bureau survey and polling from the Kaiser Family Foundation show that concerns about side effects or the newness of the vaccine and distrust in the government rank among the top reasons why people are hesitant to get the shots.

Yes, there are relentless vaccine skeptics whose foolish actions demonstrate they're immune to reason. But the loud ones don't represent all. Sherri Mixon, executive director of the T.R. Hoover Community Development Center in South Dallas, said she's heartbroken because an unvaccinated family in her circle is both grieving a father who died from COVID-19 and watching two adult sons struggle to survive in the hospital.

Mixon said people in her community can be leery when officials share information with them suddenly instead of gradually.

"When this pandemic hit, a lot of the information didn't hit the doorsteps or mailboxes of the folks of this community," she told us. "That's the reason we took charge to search the net and call different agencies and provide that information out in [vaccine] registration lines."

The demographic groups that government officials are targeting for vaccination should be involved in crafting the message, Mixon said.

Leslie Armijo, an Oak Cliff community advocate who's been promoting the vaccine all year, said some of the reluctance among Hispanic families in this area stems from confusion about whether insurance is required and fear that personal data could be shared with immigration authorities. Having leaders from President Joe Biden to Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins constantly assure people that this data sharing is not happening would help some families feel more comfortable, Armijo told us.

When Armijo's neighbors justify their hesitancy based on myths, she said she tries to understand their feelings and

See MOCKING on next page

Summer ends with nightmare news

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

Summer traditionally ends in a most un-august manner, lulling us lazily and newslessly into a faux placidity. Somehow it always ends immediately after Labor Day with the eruption of a back-to-the-grindstone mentality.

But not the summer of '21. It was just the opposite of all that. Suddenly, in August, our Great News Funnels began gushing torrents of terrible news of all sorts, all at once. It all ran together and you couldn't tell where one godawful nightmare ended and the others began.

America the Superpower lost its second war, half a world away. This time the USA's forces were outlasted if not outfought by Afghanistan's Taliban terrorist forces. They were the same Taliban that infamously beat and subjugated women; the same Taliban that gave sanctuary to al-Qaida evildoers who attacked our homeland 20 years ago on 9/11.

We saw panicked Afghan citizens trying to flee to escape the Taliban: an ISIS-K suicide bomber killed some 170 of them—and 13 U.S. troops who were trying to help them.

We saw panicked American citizens trying to save their families from the perils of Mother Nature.

America the Beautiful was suddenly being devastated simultaneously by drought-caused wildfires and storm-caused floods. Rural towns were leveled, world famous cities were inundated, people were killed. First responders were fighting to save lives. Hundreds of billions of dollars of damage was inflicted by record temperatures, rainfall and flood levels that were being called our planet's worst-ever climate change crises.

And all the while, America found itself trapped, yet again, in a new surge of the highly contagious COVID-19 delta variant—a surge that grew because almost one-third of Americans had refused to get vaccinated and many Republican governors opposed mandating mask-wearing.

While our politicos debated vaccines and masks, our news screens were inundating us with videos of unspeakable horrors that transcend politics. West Coast villages burned to the ground. New York City's subway stairways looked like Niagara Falls.

On windows and rooftops in Queens and in New Jersey we saw flash flood victims seemingly trying to decide if they could make their way through surging water-filled streets or wait for rowboat rescuers. TV anchors were saying something about "row versus wade"—but no, that turned out to be some breaking news about another very different nightmare change event.

Just before midnight Sept. 1, the U.S. Supreme Court—in a stunning 5-4 vote—announced that it had abandoned its duty to protect the constitutional rights of women to obtain abortions in accordance with the court's famous ruling in the case known as Roe versus Wade. The court refused to block enforcement of a Texas abortion law that Justice Sonia Sotomayor called, in her dissenting opinion, "a flagrantly unconstitutional law."

The Texas law made illegal all abortions—including in cases of rape or incest—after the sixth week of pregnancy, which is before many women even realize they are pregnant. The law adopted an unprecedented vigilante method of enforcement. It authorized all private citizens to in effect become bounty hunters and sue for up to $10,000 anyone who helps a woman obtain an illegal abortion—for example the Uber driver who takes them to an abortion clinic. Sotomayor's opinion, joined by Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, compellingly contended that "a majority of Justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand." That majority included all three justices appointed by Donald Trump. But Chief Justice John Roberts voted with the minority.

After days of seeing the disillusioned expressions of young Afghan women who felt betrayed at being abandoned to live again under Taliban oppressors, we recognized the same expressions on Texas women who were being interviewed on TV. We were witnessing the de facto Talibanization of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Most of America's newsmakers seemed to understand this tragic summer of nightmarish news was no time for petty political ploys. Most but not quite all—for one formerly prominent newsmaker apparently remains eager to remind us of his flair for never being underdone by even our lowest common denominators. Just after Labor Day, former President 45 made it back into our news—in his familiar way.

Donald Trump, who last year made a deal with the Taliban to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by May 1, 2021, spread the word that he has begun consoling some Gold Star families whose loved ones were just killed in that Kabul airport suicide bombing. Trump made public several messages he sent to Shana Chappell, mother of 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui and a Trump supporter.

"If I were President," Trump wrote to her, "your wonderful and beautiful son Kareem would be with you now, and so would the sons and daughters of others."

The sound you hearing is news breaking.

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12 of today's most pressing COVID questions answered

The race to tame COVID-19 has resulted in a wealth of research, new vaccines and promising treatments that hold out the promise of an end to the pandemic. But many questions remain.

Here, Max Nisen and Sam Fazeli, who cover health care and the pharmaceutical industry for Bloomberg Opinion and Bloomberg Intelligence, discuss some of the most pressing ones. The dialog has been edited and condensed.

MN: Do we really need a booster or third shot? What exactly should we expect them to do?

SF: Fortunately, the vaccines that have been studied most—those from AstraZeneca Plc, Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc.—continue to provide high protection against severe disease or hospitalization for at least six months after two doses. From that perspective, we do not need a third shot. But we are seeing a meaningful drop in the protection against infection. This is expected, given that vaccine-induced antibodies decline with time, and that we're now grappling with the more contagious delta variant. The real question is whether the protection against severe disease will also start to wane. I think we will see data from Israel on this, as well as from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at its Sept. 17 meeting. Waning immunity against severe disease could happen if the vaccine always needed a third shot, which wasn't studied because initial vaccine trials focused on speed. Several highly effective existing vaccines require third shots to generate stronger protection. But because leading COVID-19 vaccines use newer technologies, we don't really know the best way to dose. It's possible that third shots may need to be viewed as standard for COVID-19 vaccines, rather than a luxury. Either way, it's critical that we not oversell the potential benefits of a third shot. Antibody levels will wane again and the risk of infection may rise, but the risk of severe disease and from future variants should be lower.

MN: How long should we wait to boost, and does it vary by vaccine or population?

SF: The only way to truly answer this question is with big studies. But we don't have time to do that. Even mild infections in the vaccinated may become more troublesome this winter when combined with another respiratory virus such as the flu or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). We should certainly consider third shots in at-risk people to prevent that. But the definition of at-risk is rather arbitrary. Who is a front-line worker, what is the right age cutoff for an older person and what constitutes immunocompromised when it comes to the coronavirus and these vaccines? Should someone who finished cancer therapy four weeks ago get a third shot, or is it two weeks? I think it may be much easier—if you set aside supply and global equity issues—to just give a third shot at six or eight months to everyone over a certain age.

MN: As of now, vaccines have been approved only for those 12 and older. What are the risks to young children, especially as schools reopen, and when will shots be approved for them, assuming they will eventually need them?

SF: Children are often thought of as being at very low risk from COVID, but this is not exactly correct. A lot of our data is based on a period that involved home schooling as well as social distancing and mask-wearing. We are now going into a very different setup, with mask mandates a major point of contention just as the more infectious delta variant is dominating the scene. Also, most children are back at school, with many facilities not having updated their ventilation systems. The risk of long-term symptoms are real for children, and the number of kids in the hospital with COVID is increasing. On top of all this, we don't know what happens to a child infected with both COVID and one of the other respiratory diseases to which they have lower immunity than usual because of social distancing, such as flu and RSV. For all these reasons, it would be good to have vaccines available for children, but there needs to be a good deal of safety data before regulators will approve them. It's a tough situation, but it's important to get it right.

MN: What do antibody levels actually mean for vaccine efficacy and the risk of reinfection? Is it just antibodies that matter?

SF: Again, it comes down to definitions. Recent studies suggest antibody levels correlate to protection against infection. What we need to know is how to measure protection against severe disease or hospitalization. Antibodies are clearly important, but so is the other, "cellular" arm of the immune system. This involves "T-cells" trained to find and kill infected cells, limiting the spread of the infection within the body. This part of the equation has proved harder to study; severe cases rarely occurred in the late-stage, phase III trials, and T-cells are harder to measure.

MN: Are there any safety concerns with boosters? Does that influence which ones we should be using, and what about dosing?

SF: We don't know for sure. Remember first that most, if not all, vaccine-induced side effects appear within the first two months of immunization, which is exactly what has happened with COVID-19 vaccines. We know that there is a risk of rare blood clots with the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines among those younger than 40 or 50, but only after the first dose, so a third shot of these vaccines in those who already had two should be OK. However, these shots use a viral vector that the immune system may come to recognize, potentially making a third shot less effective. With the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, there's a risk of heart inflammation in younger individuals after the second shot, which may increase after a third. Mixing vaccines may provide a more effective boost, but may also introduce or heighten the above uncommon risks. Clinical trials happening now will provide more information, but they may not tell us much about rare side effects. As for dosing, data from the U.K., which is one of two countries along with Canada that have systematically used a longer dosing period between the first and the second shot, suggests that the protection afforded by this schedule was at least as good if not better. We still don't know whether the immunity will wane at a slower pace. U.K. data doesn't address this yet; we need more time to get a better picture.

MN: Might Moderna's vaccine be more effective or durable than Pfizer-BioNTech's, as some studies suggest?

SF: It may be. The Moderna vaccine uses more than three times the amount of the mRNA that prompts the body to make the spike protein of the coronavirus and generate an immune response than Pfizer-BioNTech's. So it is not surprising that you get more antibodies to start with. And assuming the antibodies generated by the two vaccines are the same from a qualitative perspective and decline at the same rate, then you would expect levels in people vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech shot to fall below the threshold for protection sooner. But let's not forget, we are talking about prevention of infection and mild disease here. There is no solid data that suggests protection against severe disease is substantially different between these two vaccines, or indeed with the AstraZeneca shot.

MN: What accounts for the huge differences in estimates of vaccine efficacy around the world?

SF: Oh many things. First, not everyone is measuring the same things. Some look at all infections, others symptomatic disease. Countries use different PCR tests and have different rules for testing. There are also differences in demographics, like age and health status, as well in the type of vaccine used and dosing schedules. And then there is varying timing of vaccination rollouts between countries and within them based on age or other factors. There are certainly other explanations as well.

MN: Will we need a fourth shot? Will it have to be tailored to specific variants?

SF: It's possible, but from what I understand about the science, it's not likely unless we continue to worry about even mild infection levels as is the case right now. There is a chance that a third shot after six or eight months pushes the immune response to the point where it is better at fighting both existing and future variants, though this has to be studied more. Current data suggests that boosting with existing vaccines develops strong antibodies against even evasive variants. But if a really troublesome variant arises, we could need another shot that specifically targets it.

MN: How much should we worry about new mutants that are more deadly or evade vaccine efficacy? How can we avoid them?

SF: You have to bear in mind that it's not just the virus that evolves. As I said earlier, even without a third shot, the immune system matures over time. Normally, the more it sees an offending pathogen, the better it gets at responding to it. Like the viruses they help fight, the "B-cells" that produce antibodies can mutate their genes. We don't know whether the virus will become more or less deadly over time, however. The common coronaviruses that cause colds may have started as more serious diseases. Recent research suggests that there would need to be 20 mutations in the "spike" protein to make the virus that causes COVID-19 completely evade antibodies from vaccinated people or those previously infected. But they also showed that people who had been vaccinated after an infection had antibodies that neutralize even this super-mutant virus. Data also shows that the virus mutates less in those who are fully vaccinated, so the risk of variant development will fall over time. And lastly, the T-cell part of the immune response chases different virus targets and won't be affected by mutations that help the virus escape antibodies.

MN: Have we learned any more about long COVID, and what's the risk on that front for the vaccinated?

SF: Yes, it's being studied. Recent data found a 50% reduction in the risk of long COVID symptoms for vaccinated people. That leaves another group that does have symptoms, but we need more data to know how serious they are. Self-reported symptoms can also be very error-prone. A recent study found that 66.5% of children who tested positive for COVID reported symptoms after three months. That sounds pretty bad – until you see that 53.3% of those who tested negative also reported lasting symptoms. It's important to be careful with these sorts of analyses.

MN: Are any new COVID treatments coming? Can they make a real difference?

SF: Yes and yes; we already have highly effective monoclonal antibody therapies that significantly reduce the risk of developing severe disease in infected people, even those with a compromised immune system. Some of these therapies can be used as prophylactic treatment in vulnerable individuals. We can also look forward to data for more convenient oral antiviral drugs from Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, Pfizer and a collaboration between Roche Holding AG and Atea Pharmaceuticals Inc. that could also curb disease. Final-stage trial data is expected by the end of the year.

MN: When will the pandemic be over?

SF: At this point, it's hard to avoid thinking that COVID will be an endemic virus like those that cause the common cold or flu—it will circulate for years to come, but with less of an impact in the future. The end of the acute pandemic phase will come when vaccine and infection-driven immunity get to a point where the risk of bad outcomes is relatively low and we can stop focusing on case counts globally. You'll still need surveillance, have small outbreaks and may need continued vaccination in some groups, but I think most COVID-related restrictions will sunset within a year or so. The big swing factors that will determine whether the effective end comes faster or slower are any further mutations and the speed with which vaccine supply is directed toward the developing world, where inoculation rates are lagging. An effective oral antiviral that can quickly treat the infected would also bring a quicker end to the pandemic phase.

Sam Fazeli is senior pharmaceuticals analyst for Bloomberg Intelligence *and director of research for EMEA. Max Nisen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, pharma and health care. He previously wrote about management and corporate strategy for* Quartz *and* Business Insider.

MOCKING

From Page 8

share facts. It's one thing to indulge a conspiracy theory, and it's another to recognize that someone's views are wrong but that their fears are sincere.

We should learn from Armijo's approach: "I also take no for an answer," she told us. "It may not be that first time, or that second encounter or the third encounter, but hopefully if they keep having positive encounters with people who are promoting vaccines, eventually it will have some kind of effect."

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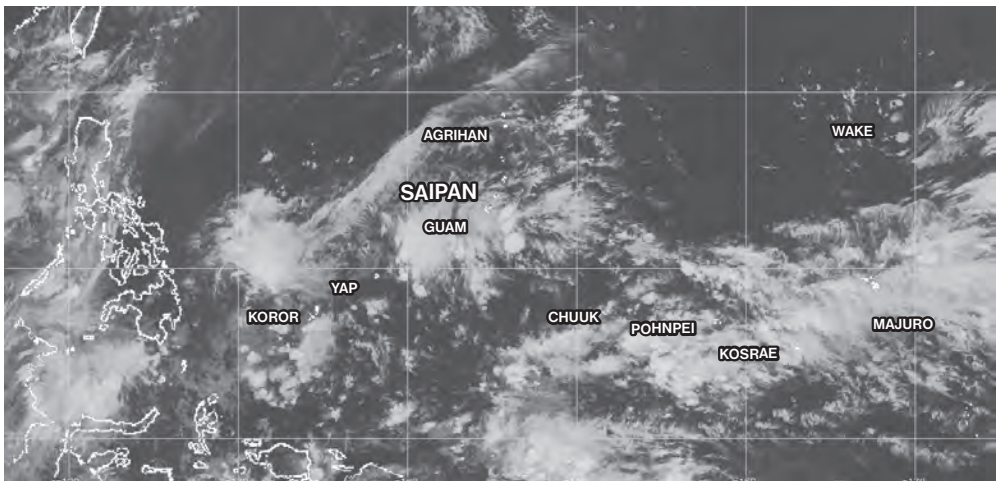
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:58 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen just south of the Guam Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of around 3 feet, primarily composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell. The wind waves, more from the northeast, could be at least partially sheltered.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	82 / 89 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	79 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Heavy rain	81 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:51 PM	6:35 PM	-
Wednesday	-	12:18 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	-	1:18 AM	2:51 PM
Friday	-	2:20 AM	3:45 PM
Saturday	-	3:20 AM	4:34 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	50 / 59 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	62 / 89 °F
Hong Kong	Heavy rain	81 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Morning clouds	73 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	60 / 69 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	62 / 72 °F
Manila	Partly sunny	81 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	48 / 58 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	80 / 87 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	65 / 75 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	75 / 90 °F
Paris	Mostly cloudy	61 / 71 °F
Pusan	Partly sunny	75 / 81 °F
Rome	Afternoon clouds	68 / 85 °F
Salem	Partly sunny	50 / 71 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 69 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	71 / 86 °F
Tokyo	Mostly cloudy	77 / 87 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	65 / 79 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:30 AM	Low Tide	-0.00
3:05 PM	High Tide	1.74
8:05 PM	Low Tide	1.36
-	-	-

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

United to purchase 1.5B gallons of sustainable aviation fuel over 20 years

United Airlines and Honeywell announced yesterday a joint multimillion-dollar investment in Alder Fuels—a cleantech company that is pioneering first-of-its-kind technologies for producing sustainable aviation fuel at scale by converting abundant biomass, such as forest and crop waste, into sustainable low-carbon, drop-in replacement crude oil that can be used to produce aviation fuel.

When used together across the fuel lifecycle, the Alder technologies, coupled with Honeywell's Ecofining process, could have the ability to produce a carbon-negative fuel at spec with today's jet fuel. The goal of the technologies is to produce fuel that is a 100% drop-in replacement for petroleum jet fuel.

As part of the agreement, United is committing to purchase 1.5 billion gallons of SAF from Alder when produced to United's requirements. United's purchase agreement, which is one and a half times the size of the known purchase commitments of all global airlines combined, makes this easily the largest publicly announced SAF agreement in aviation history. United's purchase agreement with Alder also surpasses the previous record set by the airline in 2015 through its investment in Fulcrum BioEnergy with its option to purchase up to 900 million gallons of SAF.

» United, Honeywell invest in new clean tech venture from Alder Fuels

"Since announcing our 100% green commitment in 2020, United has stayed focused on decarbonizing without relying on the use of traditional carbon offsets. Part of that commitment means increasing SAF usage and availability since it's the fastest way to reduce emissions across our fleet. However, to scale SAF as quickly as necessary, we need to look beyond existing solutions and invest in research and development for new pathways like the one Alder is developing," said United CEO Scott Kirby. "United has come further than any other airline making sustainable travel a reality by using SAF to power flights. Our leadership gives customers confidence that they are flying with an airline that recognizes the responsibility we have to help solve climate change."

"As a pioneer of the SAF market with UOP Ecofining technology, our work with United and Alder on this new technology will help transform the industry and support the growth of a zero- carbon economy," said Darius Adamczyk, Honeywell chairman and chief executive officer. "This solution will not only advance United's SAF commitment but can help the aviation industry meet its commitments to decouple increases in carbon emissions from growth in passengers."

Sustainable aviation fuel is pumped to a United Airlines plane.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. forestry residues and agricultural residues alone could provide enough biomass energy to generate more than 17 billion gallons of jet fuel and displace 75% of U.S. aviation fuel consumption. If the U.S. were to broadly adopt regenerative agricultural practices, which capture more carbon in healthier soil compared to traditional methods, the U.S. could generate an additional seven billion gallons of SAF, which would completely replace the U.S.' current fossil jet fuel consumption.

Alder's technology and demand for its fuel from the aviation industry create a large new market for biomass from regenerative practices. Use of this biomass further enables Alder's production process to be carbon negative over the fuel's lifecycle.

"Aviation poses one of the greatest technology challenges for addressing climate change and SAF has demonstrated the greatest potential. However, there is insufficient raw material to meet demand," said Bryan Sherbacow, CEO of Alder Fuels and senior advisor to World Energy, the company that owns and operates the world's first SAF refinery. "Alder's technology revolutionizes SAF production by enabling use of widely available, low-cost and low-carbon feedstock. The industry is now a major step closer to using 100% SAF with our drop-in fuel that accelerates the global transition to a zero-carbon economy."

Prior to founding Alder, Sherbacow built the world's first SAF refinery utilizing Honeywell's technology and subsequently contracted with United, enabling the airline to become the first globally to use SAF in regular operations on a continuous basis. Since then, United has purchased more SAF than any other airline and, with this agreement now, has more than 70% of the airline industry's publicly announced SAF commitments. Alder's research is supported by the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency, the DOE and a partnership with DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, focused on developing technology to process organic waste and sustainable, non-food plant material into carbon-negative transportation fuels.

Honeywell innovation established the SAF market with its UOP Ecofining process, which is the first technology used to maximize SAF production for commercial aviation. Building on Honeywell's focus to create sustainable technology, Honeywell will utilize its expertise and proven process of developing sustainable fuels alongside Alder, applying proprietary hydroprocessing design to the process to jointly commercialize the technology. Commercialization is expected by 2025. This announcement is a clear example of how Honeywell's Sustainable Technology Solutions business can partner with early-stage companies and help them scale faster, access customers and advance research and development to help drive sustainability at the global level.

United's joint investment in Alder is the latest by United Airlines Ventures, a venture fund launched earlier this year that focuses on startups, upcoming technologies, and sustainability concepts that will complement United's goal of net zero emissions by 2050—without relying on traditional carbon offsets. In 2020, United became the first airline to announce a commitment to invest in carbon capture and sequestration and has since followed with investments in electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and 19-seat electric aircraft that have the potential to fly customers up to 250 miles before the decade's end. ***(PR)***

UOG survey: Triton alumni have advantages in the workforce

A survey of University of Guam alumni shows that UOG graduates gain various professional advantages after earning their degrees. According to 1,350 alumni surveyed in 2020, the majority say their degree has led to increased employment and promotion opportunities, feeling well-prepared in their job or career, and higher annual earnings.

"This survey sheds light on the undeniable benefits of earning a degree from the University of Guam," said Maria Claret M. Ruane, a professor of economics at UOG who led the study through the UOG School of Business and Public Administration.

Conducted between Feb. 19 and March 20, 2020, the survey sought information from alumni on their perceived usefulness and value of their degree. Its questions were largely patterned after a 2014 Pew Research study titled "The Rising Cost of Not Going to College."

Clarence Brooks gives the University of Guam Trident symbol while he waits to receive his Bachelor of Science in Nursing diploma at the university's commencement ceremony in May at Paseo Stadium in Hagåtña.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Increased employment opportunities

The report noted increased employment opportunities for alumni, including getting promoted and finding employment.

Most of the respondents held jobs while earning their degrees, and of those who did, 84% of undergraduates and 61.2% of graduates (Table 7) saw promotions with their current employer or took jobs with new employers as a result of their degree, resulting in up to $15,000 higher earnings compared to before their degree.

Of those who weren't employed over the course of their degree, the majority found work within three months of graduating.

"The earning potential is clear, but UOG alumni also felt strongly about the non-monetary benefits, such as enjoying an overall better quality of life and being able to be a better role model," Ruane said.

Prepared for the workforce

The alumni surveyed reported feeling prepared for the workforce and finding a meaningful career path.

More than 90% of respondents reported that their UOG degree is useful in their current job or career, with the same percentage saying their degree provided them with the right qualifications or higher qualifications than are required in their jobs. Furthermore, 86% reported that their academic major is closely related to the work they're doing now.

Investing in a degree increases social mobility

Regarding the cost of their degrees, 75% of undergraduate and 89% of graduate alumni said the benefits of their degree were equal to or greater than the cost.

The survey also asked respondents about their student loan debt, revealing that one-third of undergraduate students and nearly half of graduate students who responded did not borrow any money to pay for their degree. Of those who did, the amounts borrowed ranged between $10,000 and $14,000.

"This study underscores the impact UOG has on students' social mobility," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "We hope the positive feedback of our graduates in this report will encourage more of our region's young adults to invest in their future by attending UOG."

The University of Guam was recently named a "Top Performer on Social Mobility" by *U.S. News and World Repor*t for the second straight year, recognizing the high number of Pell grant recipients, or low-income students, who complete their degrees at UOG.

The complete report is available at https://www.uog.edu/alumni/uog-alumni-survey. ***(PR)***

Nation

School starts for 1 million NYC kids amid new vaccine rules

NEW YORK (AP)—Classroom doors swing open for about a million New York City public school students on Monday in the nation's largest experiment of in-person learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

The start of the school year coincides with several milestones in the city's pandemic recovery that hinge on vaccine mandates.

Nearly all of the city's 300,000 employees will be required to be back in their workplaces, in person, Monday as the city ends remote work. Most will either need to be vaccinated, or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing to remain in their jobs.

The city was also set to start enforcing rules requiring workers and patrons to be vaccinated to go indoors at restaurants, museums, gyms and entertainment venues. The vaccination requirement has been in place for weeks, but had not previously been enforced.

There will also be a vaccine mandate—with no test-out option—for teachers, though they have been given until Sept. 27 to get their first shot.

Unlike some school districts across the country that are still offering online instruction to families that prefer it, New York City officials say there will be no remote option despite the persistence of the highly transmissible delta variant of COVID-19.

New York City kept schools open for most of the last school year, with some students doing a mix of remote and in-person instruction, but the majority of families chose all-remote learning. That choice won't be available this year, Mayor Bill de Blasio has insisted.

"Our kids need to be in school and it's unbelievable that some kids haven't seen the inside of a classroom for a year and a half," the mayor said Thursday. "There are massive consequences to that, including health care consequences. The healthiest, best place for kids to be is in school."

Firefighters advance on blaze that shut California highway

AP

In this aerial photo released by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Air Operations traffic passes the Route fire, a brush wildfire off Interstate 5 north of Castaic, Calif., on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021.

CASTAIC, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters were making progress on a wildfire that jumped across a Southern California freeway and spread across dry hillsides while a new blaze forced residents of a Northern California community to evacuate.

The fire broke out Saturday afternoon near Castaic in northern Los Angeles County. Pushed by 10-15mph (16-24 kph) winds, the blaze chewed through tinder-dry brush and jumped across the busy freeway, spread across more than a half of a square mile.

The California Highway Patrol closed a stretch of the interstate for several hours as air tankers dropped bright-orange retardant on the flames. A large flareup sent heavy smoke drifting toward freeway lanes Sunday afternoon, the CHP reported.

Two firefighters were taken to the hospital to treat burn injuries, said Andrew Mitchell, a spokesman for the Angeles National Forest.

The fire remained uncontained due to the mountainous terrain, but firefighters made progress overnight with the help of water-dropping aircraft and an aggressive ground attack, Mitchell said.

He said crews will take advantage of the beginning of a cooling trend Sunday to build containment lines.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Meanwhile, a fire that erupted Sunday afternoon prompted Mendocino County authorities to evacuate parts of Calpella, a community on the Russian River about 6 miles (10 miles) north of Ukiah. Video footage posted on Twitter shows the fire pushing in the direction of Lake Mendocino.

4 injured after apartment building explosion near Atlanta

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP)—An explosion rocked an apartment building in suburban Atlanta on Sunday, causing the three-story structure to partially collapse and leaving four people with minor injuries, authorities said.

The cause of the explosion was unknown, but a local utility had received a call from a resident about a strong odor of gas shortly before the midday blast, according to DeKalb County Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Chief Melvin Carter. He said 90% of the building had been searched and officials were in the process of shoring up the rest of the complex so rescuers could continue searching for anyone who might be trapped.

Fire Capt. Jaeson Daniels had said two people were unaccounted for and may have been in one of three apartments that had completely collapsed. Rescuers hadn't been able to enter those apartments due to instability of the overall structure.

But WSB-TV reported, citing DeKalb fire officials, that the two people were eventually found safe.

A helicopter and drones circled above the structure as the local Red Cross began canvassing residents to see who might need help finding accommodations. The partially collapsed building and several others nearby were evacuated. Residents were told that Monday was the earliest they could return to their homes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tropical Storm Nicholas threatens Gulf Coast with heavy rain

MIAMI (AP)—Tropical Storm Nicholas headed toward the Texas coast Monday, threatening to bring heavy rain and floods to coastal areas of Texas, Mexico and storm-battered Louisiana. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami said a hurricane watch was issued for the central portion of the Texas coast with much of the state's coastline now under a tropical storm warning. Nicholas is expected to approach the middle Texas coast late Monday and could bring heavy rain that could cause flash floods and urban flooding. In a special advisory late Sunday, forecasters said the center of Nicholas had reformed, and the system strengthened. It had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph) and was moving north-northwest at 12 mph (19 kph). It was located off the coast of northeastern Mexico, and was on a forecast track to pass near the South Texas coast later Monday, then move onshore along the coast of south or central Texas by Monday evening. Nicholas over several days is expected to produce total rainfall of up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) in Texas and southwest Louisiana, with isolated maximum amounts of 20 inches (50 centimeters), across portions of coastal Texas beginning Sunday night through midweek.

Illinois man to be sentenced in '17 Minnesota mosque bombing

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—The leader of an Illinois anti-government militia group who authorities say masterminded the 2017 bombing of a Minnesota mosque is to be sentenced Monday for several civil rights and hate crimes in an attack that terrified a community. Emily Claire Hari, who was previously known as Michael Hari and recently said she is transgender, faces a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison for the attack on Dar al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington. Defense attorneys are asking for the minimum, but prosecutors are seeking a life sentence, saying Hari hasn't taken responsibility for the attack. "This bomb – the Defendant's bomb – was an act of terror intended to destroy the heart of a community," prosecutors wrote in papers asking for a life sentence. While no one was physically hurt, prosecutors wrote, "the Defendant irrevocably destroyed the sense of safety and peace that a house of worship is supposed to provide." Hari was convicted in December on five counts, including damaging property because of its religious character and obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs.

West Virginia hits daily record in new cases

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—West Virginia set two daily records in the past week for positive coronavirus cases as the pandemic continues to ravage the state. Thursday's total of confirmed cases was a record 1,738, only to be broken by Saturday's total of 1,821, according to state health data. The previous one-day high of more than 1,700 was set on Dec. 31. The statewide total of 7,849 positive cases for the six days ending Saturday has already passed the seven-day total for the previous week, which had been the second-highest during the pandemic. Sunday's figures will be released on Monday. The highest for one week was nearly 8,200 cases in early January, a time when virus vaccines were being offered only for people ages 65 and older. The amount of weekly virus deaths statewide has gone up steadily since early August, when six deaths were reported for the week of Aug. 9. There have been 83 deaths in the past week and 3,207 overall.

Police: 1 killed, 5 others wounded in Chicago shooting

CHICAGO (AP)—One person died and five others including a teenage girl were injured in a shooting on Chicago's South Side, police said. A group of people was walking toward their vehicles in the city's West Pullman neighborhood around 9:40 p.m. Saturday when someone inside another vehicle "fired multiple rounds, striking the victims," according to police. A 42-year-old woman who was shot in the arm and armpit was taken to a hospital where she later died. Authorities have not identified her. A 32-year-old man who was shot in the face was listed in critical condition. The other victims, ranging in age from 15 to 28, were listed in fair condition at area hospitals. No one had been arrested in the shooting, police said Sunday as the investigation continued.

World

North Korea says it tested new long-range cruise missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says it successfully test fired newly developed long-range cruise missiles over the weekend, its first known testing activity in months, underscoring how it continues to expand its military capabilities amid a stalemate in nuclear negotiations with the United States.

The Korean Central News Agency said Monday the cruise missiles, which had been under development for two years, demonstrated an ability to hit targets 1,500 kilometers (932 miles) away during flight tests on Saturday and Sunday.

The North hailed its new missiles as a "strategic weapon of great significance" that meets leader Kim Jong Un's call to strengthen the country's military might, implying that they were being developed with an intent to arm them with nuclear warheads.

North Korean state media published photos of a projectile being fired from a launcher truck and an apparent missile with wings and tail fins traveling in the air.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military was analyzing the North Korean launches based on U.S. and South Korean intelligence. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said it was monitoring the situation with allies and that the North Korean activity reflects a continuing focus on "developing its military program and the threats that poses to its neighbors and the international community."

Kim during a congress of the ruling Workers' Party in January doubled down on his pledge to bolster his nuclear deterrent in the face of U.S. sanctions and pressure and issued a long wish list of new sophisticated assets, including longer-range intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered submarines, spy satellites and tactical nuclear weapons. Kim also said then that his national defense scientists were developing "intermediate-range cruise missiles with the most powerful warheads in the world."

North Korea's weapons tests are meant to build a nuclear and missile program that can stand up to what it claims as U.S. and South Korean hostility, but they are also considered by outside analysts as ways to make its political demands clear to leaders in Washington and Seoul.

The North's resumption of testing activity is likely an attempt at pressuring the Biden administration over the diplomatic freeze after Kim failed to leverage his arsenal for economic benefits during the the presidency of Donald Trump.

North Korea ended a year-long pause in ballistic tests in March by firing two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea, continuing a tradition of testing new U.S. administrations with weapons demonstrations aimed at measuring Washington's response and wresting concessions.

But there hadn't been any known test launches for months after that as Kim focused national efforts on fending off the coronavirus and salvaging his economy.

AP

This combination of photos provided by the North Korean government on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, shows long-range cruise missiles tests held on Sept. 11 -12, 2021 in an undisclosed location of North Korea.

Taliban: Women can study in gender-segregated universities

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Women in Afghanistan can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the Taliban government's new higher education minister said Sunday.

The announcement came as a Taliban official said Qatar's foreign minister arrived in the Afghan capital of Kabul—the highest level visitor since the Taliban announced their interim Cabinet. There was no immediate confirmation of the visit by Qatari officials.

Earlier Sunday, the higher education minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government. On Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from their first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. However, women have been banned from sports and the Taliban have used violence in recent days against women protesters demanding equal rights.

Haqqani said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory headscarves or also compulsory face coverings.

Gender segregation will also be enforced, he said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said. "We will not allow co-education."

WORLD BRIEFS

Two women campaign to become France's 1st female president

PARIS (AP)—Two French politicians kicked off their presidential campaigns Sunday, seeking to become France's first female leader in next year's spring election. The far-right National Rally party's Marine Le Pen and Paris' Socialist mayor, Anne Hidalgo, both launched their presidential platforms in widely expected moves. They join a burgeoning list of challengers to centrist President Emmanuel Macron. This includes battles among multiple potential candidates on the right—including another female politician Valerie Pecresse—and among the Greens. Hidalgo, 62, mayor of the French capital since 2014, is the favorite to win the Socialist Party nomination. She launched her candidacy in the northwestern city of Rouen.

Typhoon pours 5 inches of rain on Taiwan, heads for Shanghai

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Chanthu drenched Taiwan with heavy rain Sunday as the storm's center passed the island's east coast heading for Shanghai. On the Chinese mainland, the government issued a typhoon warning for Shanghai and warned of possible torrential rains. Airline flights and train service in Taiwan were suspended Saturday as the storm approached. The Central News Agency reported more than 2,000 people were evacuated from flood-prone areas of the east coast county of Hualien. At midday Sunday, Chanthu's center was about 70 kilometers (45 miles) off Taiwan's northeast coast, with winds of 162 kph (101 mph) and gusts up to 198 kph (124 mph), according to the Central Weather Bureau.

Spain deploys military against wildfire, evacuates 2,500

JUBRIQUE, Spain (AP)—Soldiers were deployed Sunday in southeastern Spain to join the battle against a major wildfire that is burning for a fourth day, invigorated by stray embers that sparked a new hot spot. The blaze in Malaga province has destroyed nearly 7,000 hectares (17,300 acres) of forest and prompted fresh evacuations, bringing the total number of residents displaced to around 2,500. Plan Infoca, the Andalusia region's agency in charge of firefighting efforts, described Sunday as a "key day" for bringing the blaze under control. Authorities on Sunday preventively removed nearly 1,500 residents from the towns of Jubrique, Genalguacil and four other villages. Over 1,000 other people had been evacuated before the weekend from areas around the resort town of Estepona, which is popular among tourists and foreign expats.

LOVED WITH A LOVE BEYOND TELLING,
MISSED WITH A GRIEF BEYOND ALL TEARS.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

†JAMES G. SABLAN

SUNRISE: MAY 26, 1971 SUNSET: SEPTEMBER 01, 2021

Was called by his Creator to his Eternal Rest to join his parents:
†Gregorio "Eko" & †Mary Sablan

His Brothers: †Serphin Single, † Stan "Eipap" Sablan & †Jimmy "Big Tuna" Sablan

His Sister: †Lucy "Lucita" Sablan

Forever Loved and Missed by:

His Wife, Dinda and their Children: Jamal, Nathan, Dianne, Dierra (Frankie), Natasha (James), and granddaughter (Solen)

His Brothers and Sisters:
†Serphin Single's Family, †Stan Sablan's Kids and grandkids, Rosendo Sablan & Family, †Jimmy Sablan's daughter, Greg Sablan Jr., Domaita Sablan & Family, Presenta Sablan-Shirai & Family, Caroline Sablan-Bernard & Family, Grace Sablan-Choban & Family, Jacoba Sablan, Merilyn Innocenti-Mailur & Family, and Memorina Sablan.

He is additionally survived by numerous close relatives, family and friends all over the World.

Last respect will be on September 16, 2021 to September 17, 2021 from 3:00PM to 9:00AM (Bella) at the Sablan residence; Falughulo Texas Rd., Susupe. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Kinisou Chapur, Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank you very much,

Dinda and the Family

Overdrive

The 2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz compact pickup.
MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Hyundai Santa Cruz
pickup...where SUVs leave off

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.—And now for something completely different.

The segment-busting 2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz pickup is the first of its kind—a unibody-based, head-turning Swiss Army knife with many tools for many chores. Did I say pickup? Hyundai prefers the term Sport Adventure Vehicle because Santa Cruz is truly a different animal.

"I think this segment is the new hot hatch," said Hyundai Test and Development manager Chahe Apelian of a compact SUV segment that will soon include the Ford Maverick and maybe entrants from Ram and VW.

That's music to my ears as I was an early buyer of the segment-busting 1984 VW Golf GTI, the original hot hatch. An enthusiast's compact. Since then, hot hatches have become the most versatile vehicle in autodom with utility and performance at an affordable price. Though hardly volume sellers compared to their peers, they attract passionate lifestyle buyers who turn brand missionaries.

In addition to the GTI, today's hot hatch segment includes all-stars like the Golf R, Mazda 3 Turbo and Hyundai Veloster N (soon to be replaced by the Kona N).

As Americans have pivoted to utes and trucks, the Santa Cruz offers similar benefit to adventure-minded SUV buyers. Think lifestyle enthusiasts like Subaru Outback or Jeep Compass customers.

Start with Santa Cruz's centerpiece:

■ The bed. As hatch is to Golf GTI utility, the bed is to Santa Cruz.

Unlike traditional pickups which option multi-length beds, the Cruz tub is fully integrated into the chassis design. Ladder-frame truck beds are clearly tacked onto the cabin so they can be swapped out for a bigger unit during assembly. Cruz's bed is a natural extension of the vehicle's lines. Hey, it's not a Mercedes, but it makes for a leaner, more sinewy profile that is pleasing to the eye.

Then the bed gets down to basics: soft-drop tailgate, sub-bed storage, drainage plug, side-wall storage, LED lights, utility rails. All standard. In a vehicle starting at $24,000—well under a mid-size pickup class where you'll be hard-pressed to find standard goodies. Built in 'Bama, Cruz was designed on Cali's surfer coast with Yanks in mind. It even copies Chevy Silverado's corner steps to help you lay your surfboard in the bed.

Like hot hatches, pickups are generally boy toys, but I'm betting these features will make Santa Cruz a chick magnet, too. Wee Mrs. Payne is terrified of free-falling tailgates, but soft-drop reassures. And on a trip to the grocer (or the park to barbecue), it's a no-brainer to throw your meats 'n' drinks into the sub-bed locker with a bag of ice. When you arrive at your destination, pull the plug to drain the water.

The icing on the cake is the tonneau cover. Lockable, water-resistant and easy to slide, it's the answer to every pickup buyer's prayers—a retractable cover that instantly turns the bed into a trunk to protect your stuff from the elements.

Not standard, but worth the $3,270 upgrade that includes 115-volt plug in rear, sunroof, sliding rear window, and more.

The sub-bed is also perfect for muddy kids cleats and jerseys—indeed, the whole idea of a bed on the back of an SUV is to keep smells and dirt separated from the cabin.

The 4-foot bed does come with compromises. You won't be hauling ATVs back there. Indeed, the bed can't even swallow a bicycle whole, necessitating that you throw the front tire over the tailgate to fit it in. That, naturally, means you have to buy a Hyundai accessory to protect the tailgate (or just throw a thick rug over it).

For those who want to drag their ATV to the Outback, you'll need to buy a trailer. With that in mind, Hyundai ambitiously, obsessively benchmarked to the Honda Ridgeline (a segment bigger and the only other SUV-based unibody pickup) with 5,000-pound towing capability. Nice.

For more typical use cases of loading mulch, cinderblock, furniture ... Santa Cruz also has a Ridgeline-like payload of 1,900 pounds.

■ It's a compact SUV. Just as GTI shares a skeleton with the VW Golf, so is the Santa Cruz a Tucson with a bed. Tucson, also new this year, has immediately gone to the top of the SUV class in my book with its Lambo looks, clever interior and tight handling.

Male and female alike will find this pleasing for metro errands where even midsize pickups can feel big.

Around the crowded San Francisco Bay Area, Cruz was as easy to park as, well, a Tucson. That compact size shows in back, and my 6-foot-5-inch frame's legs were jammed into the back of the front seat when I tried to sit behind myself. Normal-size folks will be more comfortable—and there's sub-seat storage space to boot.

■ It's a looker. The GTI and Mazda 3 Turbo hatches are eye-catching. Cruz, too. When I say the Cruz is a Tucson with a bed, I mean outside and inside. Teased waaaay back at the 2016 Detroit Auto Show as a prototype, Santa Cruz was a long time coming as Hyundai developed an architecture that could meet the pickup's needs.

Hyundai has bold styling ambitions, and Tucson/Santa Cruz's triangle-themed design is unique.

The state-of-the-art interior boasts the same pluses and minuses as Tucson. I love its simplicity with two all-digital screens running the show and twin lines wrapping the cabin. The latter is made possible by ditching the instrument display screen's hood (credit a bright LCD display). Dude, it's cool.

Hyundai jumps the shark by continuing that simplicity to a touchscreen without volume dials which occupants will miss. At least the driver can control volume with a steering-wheel button. It's hard to be mad when Santa Cruz comes standard with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

■ Fun to drive. OK, the high-riding (8.6-inch) Cruz is no hot hatch on road, but it can cut some rug. The 2022 Nissan Frontier is the best-handling ladder-frame truck I've driven thanks to clever suspension and cabin mounts—but it can't hold a candle to the Santa Cruz. With a healthy turbocharged 281 horses under the hood (a 191-horse 4-cylinder is also capable), we danced together through the twists and turns of the Bay Area's challenging Route 9 and had a ball.

Just, um, don't try that with the groceries in back. Same goes for hot hatches.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Vehicle type:** Front-engine, front- and all-wheel-drive, five-passenger pickup
- **Price:** $25,175, including $1,185 destination fee ($40,905 Limited model as tested)
- **Powerplant:** 2.5-liter 4-cylinder; 2.5-liter turbo-4
- **Power:** 191 horsepower, 181 pound-feet of torque (2.5L); 281 horsepower, 311 pound-feet of torque (2.5L turbo)
- **Transmissions:** 8-speed automatic (2.5L); 8-speed dual-clutch automatic (2.5L turbo)
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph (7.5 seconds, Car and Driver, 2.5L turbo-4); payload, 1,900 pounds; tow, 5,000 pounds
- **Weight:** 2,835 pounds (manual Limited as tested)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA, 19 mpg city/26 highway/22 combined (2.5L turbo-4 as tested)

Report card

- **Highs:** Segment-busting pickup for metro drivers; versatile bed
- **Lows:** Won't fit your bike without taking wheel off; touchscreen needs buttons, please
- **Overall:** ✪✪✪✪

Life & Style

Britney Spears gets engaged with 'lioness' engraved ring

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears announced her engagement Sunday to her boyfriend, Sam Asghari, with an exuberant post displaying a diamond ring engraved with the word "lioness."

The news comes days after her father filed to end the court conservatorship that has controlled the singer's life and money for 13 years.

She wrote "I can't (expletive) believe it!" with an Instagram video post where she winks, kisses a smiling Asghari on the cheek and answers "yes!" when he asks if she likes the ring.

Asghari posted his own photo of Spears showing her ring finger to the camera.

The four-carat diamond ring is engraved inside the band with "lioness" because it's his nickname for her, the company Forever Diamonds NY said in a statement.

The couple met on the set of the "Slumber Party" music video in 2016.

The singer told a judge in June she wanted to marry Asghari and have a baby with him during an impassioned plea to end the conservatorship, but said she hadn't been allowed to remove an intrauterine device for birth control or even drive with him.

Legally, Spears can get married, but the conservatorship must approve it as with other major life decisions.

Spears was previously married to Kevin Federline, with whom she shares two sons, ages 14 and 15. She was briefly married to childhood friend Jason Alexander in 2004.

Britney Spears and Sam Asghari arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," at the TCL Chinese Theatre, Monday, July 22, 2019.
JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP

'SNL' hosts Rudolph, Chappelle win guest actor Emmy honors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Claire Foy, Courtney B. Vance, Maya Rudolph and Dave Chappelle won guest actor Emmys at Sunday's creative arts awards ceremony.

On the drama series side, Foy was honored for "The Crown" and her reprisal of Queen Elizabeth II, the role that won her a lead actress Emmy in 2018. Vance won for his part in "Lovecraft Country," which was canceled after one season.

Rudolph and Chappelle earned comedy series guest acting trophies as hosts of "Saturday Night Live." For Rudolph, it was a repeat of her victory in the category last year, also for "SNL."

In the short-form comedy or drama series, the winners were J.B. Smoove for "Mapleworth Murders" and Keke Palmer for "Keke Palmer's Turnt Up with the Taylors."

All the awards, except for that earned by Foy, went to Black actors. While that appeared to signal a trend toward diversity for this year's Emmys, the guest actor awards have proved more inclusive than the top acting honors in recent years.

The creative arts awards were presented in non-televised weekend ceremonies that will be part of a special Saturday on FXX. The awards are precursors to the main Emmy ceremony airing Sunday, Sept. 19, on CBS, with Cedric the Entertainer as host.

Emmanuel Acho, executive producer of "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man," which won for short form nonfiction or reality series, wore a suit that bore that names of Black men and women killed at the hands of police.

"The Queen's Gambit," a coming-of-age tale set in the world of championship chess, emerged with a leading nine creative arts awards, including for best casting, cinematography and music composition for a limited or anthology series.

'Shang-Chi' tops box office again with $35.8 million

NEW YORK (AP)—"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" stayed on top at the box office, collecting $35.8 million in ticket sales in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That total was good enough for the best second-weekend gross of any film during the pandemic, edging out the previous Marvel movie, "Black Widow." This year, relatively few films have held well in theaters either because they've been streaming simultaneously at home or because moviegoers' attention fades.

"Shang-Chi" is playing exclusively in theaters, and its second-week drop, 53%, was relatively modest. In two weeks of release, it has grossed $247.6 million globally. At its current pace, "Shang-Chi," the first Marvel movie to star an Asian superhero (played by Simu Liu), may become the top summer release at the North American box office. Globally, its path is less certain. "Shang-Chi" currently doesn't have a release date in China. Worldwide, Universal's "Fast and Furious" sequel "F9" has fared better than any other pandemic release with more than $714 million in ticket sales.

The $90 million four-day Labor Day weekend opening for "Shang-Chi" was widely seen as an encouraging sign for the industry amid the coronavirus surge in the U.S. On Friday, Disney announced that all of its remaining 2021 releases, including Marvel's "Eternals," will open exclusively in theaters, and not land on Disney+ at the same time. That was how "Black Widow" opened, prompting a lawsuit from star Scarlett Johansson.

Warner Bros.' "Malignant," a horror thriller directed by James Wan, was the only sizable new competition for "Shang-Chi." It debuted softly with $5.6 million. Overseas, it added $6.3 million from 69 markets. Like all Warner Bros. releases this year, "Malignant" was also released on HBO Max for subscribers. The studio has said it will return to debuting films with an exclusive theatrical window next year.

1. **"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the 10 Rings,"** $35.8 million ($35.2 million internationally).
2. **"Free Guy,"** $5.8 million, ($17.3 million internationally).
3. **"Malignant,"** $5.6 million, ($6.3 million internationally).
4. **"Candyman,"** $4.8 million, ($1.3 million internationally).
5. **"Jungle Cruise,"** $2.45 million, ($700,000 internationally).
6. **"Paw Patrol,"** $2.2 million, ($5.7 million internationally).
7. **"Don't Breathe 2,"** $1.15 million.
8. **"The Card Counter,"** $1.1 million.
9. "Show Me the Father," $700,000.
10. **"Respect,"** $503,000.

The weak debut for "Malignant" allowed Disney to also take the second spot this weekend. The Ryan Reynolds action comedy "Free Guy," from Disney's 20th Century Studios, grossed $5.8 million in its fifth week of release, bringing its domestic tally to $101.5 million. It has made $276 million worldwide.

The specialty film business also showed some signs of life heading into the fall season. Shortly after its premiere at the Venice Film Festival, Paul Schrader's "The Card Counter," starring Oscar Isaac, launched with $1.1 million in 580 theaters for Focus Features. In the film, Isaac plays a professional gambler with a dark military past.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Job search stress impacts family's interactions

DEAR ABBY: I am currently without a job. I hesitated to inform my mother because I was sure her reaction would only add to my stress. I was right. She constantly corners me about my efforts to find a job. I talk to her nearly every day to keep up with how she and my stepfather are doing. Because she never fails to dig into me about my job search progress, I now find ways to shorten our conversations.

I can get a job or two to sustain my living expenses for the time being. However, I'm trying to hold out for a job or career that connects to my soul passion. Working for decades in a job that sustains me and my children is no match for the longing of my passion. (I'm still not sure what it is.)

How do I curb my mother's pushing me for a resolution without coming off as annoyed, which I am? I'm sure she wants to express her concern, but I want support in my efforts without feeling condemned. Help me, please.

ANNOYED IN ALABAMA

DEAR ANNOYED: I will try. Because you still aren't sure what your "soul passion" is, it's time to find out. A place to start might be a career counseling center (some universities have them). Contact one or more and inquire whether they offer career counseling and aptitude testing. The test results will tell you what you are best suited for.

Of course, this service is not offered for free, which is why you might want to buckle down and take a job or two in the meantime to afford it, as well as to feed your little family. As to your mother, who may be worried because you don't yet have a plan of action, explain to her about seeking career counseling and she may calm down.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I've been seeing a man, "Carson," on and off for about five years. Last year, when I asked him if we were exclusive, he quickly said no, so I went and slept with an ex and became pregnant. I didn't reach out to Carson because I thought the baby belonged to my ex, but when the baby was born I quickly realized she might be Carson's. When I told him, he immediately denied she was his but still rekindled our relationship. Abby, he disappears frequently and doesn't answer my calls. What should I do? Leave him? Stay? I do love him.

HOPELESS ROMANTIC IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HOPELESS ROMANTIC: Have your child DNA-tested. If it proves she IS Carson's, he should be contributing to his daughter's support. (The same goes for anyone else you think could be the father.) It's important that you understand this man behaves the way he does because he is not in love with you and doesn't care about your feelings. He sees other women, just as he did the first time around. If this is the way you want to be treated, continue this relationship. If, however, you think you deserve something—ANYthing—better, end this poor excuse for a romance now.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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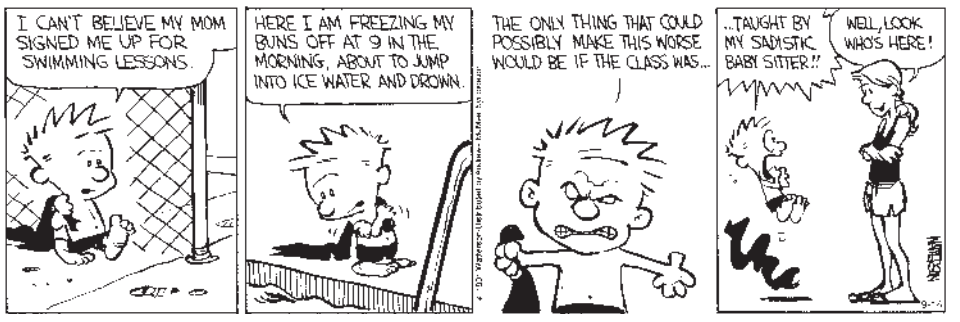
Pastimes

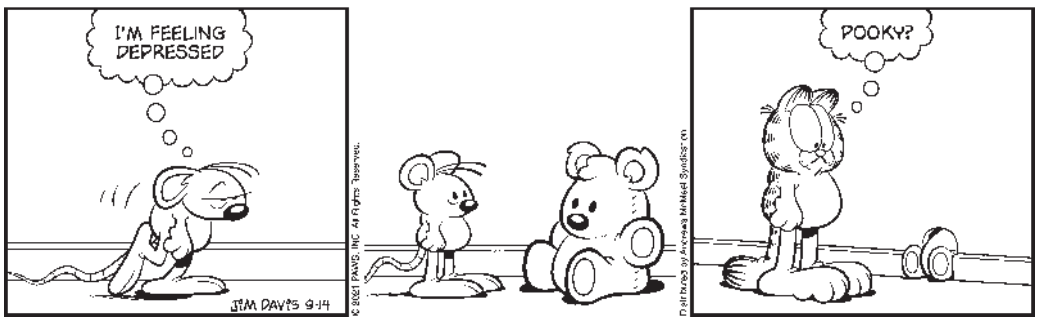
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T BELIEVE MY MOM SIGNED ME UP FOR SWIMMING LESSONS.
HERE I AM FREEZING MY BUNS OFF AT 9 IN THE MORNING, ABOUT TO JUMP INTO ICE WATER AND DROWN.
THE ONLY THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE THIS WORSE WOULD BE IF THE CLASS WAS...
..TAUGHT BY MY SADISTIC BABY SITTER!!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

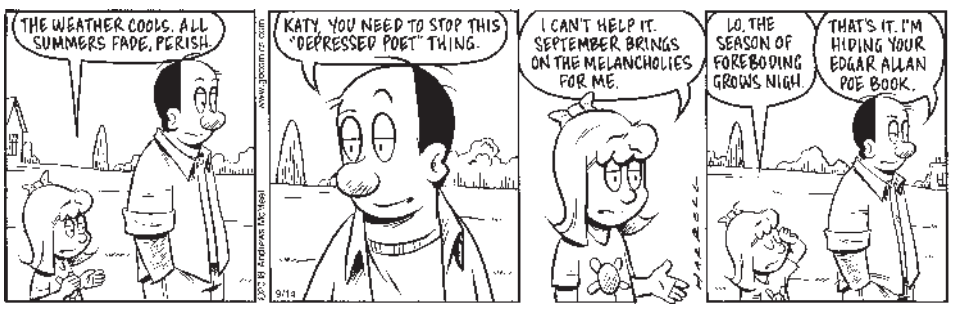
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE WEATHER COOLS. ALL SUMMERS FADE, PERISH.
KATY, YOU NEED TO STOP THIS "DEPRESSED POET" THING.
I CAN'T HELP IT. SEPTEMBER BRINGS ON THE MELANCHOLIES FOR ME.
LO, THE SEASON OF FOREBODING GROWS NIGH.
THAT'S IT. I'M HIDING YOUR EDGAR ALLAN POE BOOK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

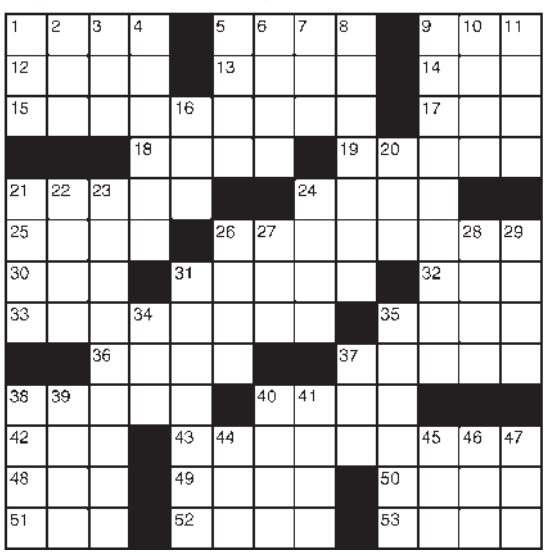
ACROSS
1 Part of NYC
5 Engrossed
9 Napkin's place
12 Hefty horn
13 Lab gel
14 Land in lamer
15 Fast-food convenience
17 "This Is Us" network
18 Astronauts' org.
19 Furtive one
21 Draw a conclusion
24 Poker type
25 Former queen of Jordan
26 Pants fabric
30 Bill's partner
31 Icky stuff
32 Equi-
33 Relinquish the throne
35 Always
36 Let fall
37 Family girl
38 Aesopian ending
40 Party pooper
42 Egg (Pref.)
43 Emphasize, as a point
48 "Lion" actor Patel
49 Aachen article
50 Smartphone name
51 Before
52 Entryway
53 Show ennui

DOWN
1 Since Jan. 1
2 Couple's pronoun
3 MLB stat
4 Julie, who voices Marge Simpson
5 "Phooey!"
6 Turkish title
7 Standard
8 "Honest!"
9 Solid baseball hit
10 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
11 Quick kiss
16 Corn serving
20 Central point
21 Early Peruvian
22 Gaming tyro
23 Fundraiser for a soup kitchen
24 "Ditto"
26 Applaud
27 Chart-topping song
28 In — (shortly)
29 Days gone by
31 Berated
34 Playwright Levin
35 Four-score
37 Scot's refusal
38 Style
39 Done with
40 Flintstones' pet
41 KOA patron
44 2016 Olympics city
45 "... man — mouse?"
46 Kitten's cry
47 Ages and ages

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	A	P		A	B	S		C	R	I	S
R	E	A	R	F	X	I	T		H	F	N	S
G	R	A	F	F	I	T	I		E	A	R	N
			I	T	S		G	R	A	P	E	S
S	I	A	H	S		A	M	A	I			
H	A	M	M		G	R	A	S	S	E	S	
A	N	I		B	O	O	T	H		I	I	S
	G	R	A	N	O	L	A		I	T	Y	
			S	A	D	E		S	N	E	E	R
G	H	A	C	I	E		L	O	I			
R	O	D	E		G	H	A	U	U	A	I	E
A	V	O	N		G	O	S	S	I	P	E	D
B	E	S	T		S	O	T		T	O	E	S

Yesterday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Kenney, 22; Dilshad Vadsaria, 36; Kimberly Williams-Paisley, 50; Robert Herjavec, 59.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities, not trouble. Refuse to let your emotions take over and lead you in a direction that creates domestic problems. Do your best to put your energy toward making a difference and improving your life and the lives of those dear to you. Less anger, more compassion, and forgiveness will encourage an empowering, meaningful and fulfilling lifestyle. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 25, 36, 42, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stay on track. If you let your emotions interfere with your objective, you will lose time, money and confidence. Put your energy where it counts, and avoid getting into a debate with someone who will never see things your way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take over and do your own thing. Change begins with you. Following in someone's footsteps will not satisfy your needs. Take the initiative and see where it leads. You'll never know what you can do if you don't try. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You are heading in the right direction. Don't let anyone lead you astray or tempt you with something that will deter you from reaching your objective. Broaden your scope and push yourself until you reach your target. Today is about positive change. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider what's being said, and make decisions based on your needs. Anger will not solve a problem, but being rational and making preferences known will allow you to follow a path that beckons you to put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let money slip through your fingers. Generosity will lead to trouble. Slow down; think before you promise the impossible. It's OK to ponder over requests and to say no when you are not up to what someone asks of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Count your blessings, and choose to be positive. Put your energy where it counts. Bring about changes that will make a difference. Don't get involved in someone's negativity or poor decisions. Think for yourself and do your own thing. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think outside the box, and choose a plan that helps you overcome negativity brought on by someone who lacks vision. Don't share your goals until you've worked out all the details. Discipline and hard work will pay off. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Peace and love prevail. Approach whatever and whoever comes into your presence with kindness and compassion. You will ward off negativity and encourage support. Don't take a health risk or give in to someone putting unrealistic demands on you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your message clear. Refuse to let anyone twist your words or interfere with your plans. Discipline and hard work will lead to rewards. Trust only those who give you the freedom to follow the path that feels most comfortable. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put more time and effort into personal growth, learning and establishing what you want to do next. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way or interfere in your life. Take the road less traveled to discover what's best for you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Talk to an expert. The information you receive will give insight into what's possible. Take care of any health or financial issues that arise swiftly, and avoid the risk of future setbacks. Don't let uncertainty lead to poor decisions. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Follow your heart, put your thoughts in motion and do what's best for you. A chance to use your strengths to get ahead will unfold. It's time to accept an opportunity to take on something new and exciting. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious, persuasive and optimistic. You are innovative and consistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6		3		7		
	4		2	5				
2				9		4		5
	7							
9	6	2				5	8	4
							1	
5		1		8				2
				1	5		7	
		3		4		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	4	3	2	8	1	6	7
3	2	6	1	4	7	8	5	9
8	7	1	5	6	9	3	2	4
4	1	8	2	5	3	9	7	6
5	6	7	9	8	1	4	3	2
2	9	3	6	7	4	5	8	1
7	4	2	8	1	5	6	9	3
1	8	9	7	3	6	2	4	5
6	3	5	4	9	2	7	1	8

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KELLY CLARKSON — **Solution: 9 letters**

R	O	S	E	M	I	T	Y	A	D	H	A	R	M	A
I	E	A	D	N	E	R	B	R	E	T	N	I	W	C
V	P	M	A	B	E	R	A	R	R	Y	M	A	N	T
E	E	L	I	C	A	B	L	M	O	E	G	N	A	R
R	R	R	A	N	H	E	L	N	E	C	P	L	N	E
S	S	E	D	T	G	I	U	A	A	R	E	A	I	S
T	O	O	S	D	I	T	L	N	S	X	I	D	R	S
E	N	P	O	I	A	N	O	D	A	V	E	C	B	B
U	A	L	P	L	D	T	U	N	R	C	E	T	A	A
D	L	U	K	A	R	E	D	M	E	E	K	G	S	N
Y	I	S	T	A	Z	E	N	M	A	W	N	Ⓛ	A	D
B	T	H	P	H	R	A	B	C	B	O	Ⓞ	K	S	S
O	Y	A	W	A	O	E	M	M	Y	Ⓓ	R	A	E	H
D	R	O	C	E	R	R	S	C	Ⓘ	P	M	Y	L	O
Y	Y	B	I	L	L	B	O	A	R	D	L	R	O	W

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Actress, Alexander, American, Author, Away, Band, Billboard, Body, Books, Brandon, Brenda, Children, Daytime, December, Décor, Dharma, Dolly, Duets, Emmy, Heard, Idol, Las Vegas, Lullaby, Lush, Olympics, Parton, Perry, Personality, Platinum, Range, Reba, Record, Remington, Residency, River, Rose, Ryman, Sabrina, Talk, Texan, Winter, World, Zappos

Yesterday's Answer: Venomous

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Displaced Saints rout struggling Rodgers and Packers, 38-3

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Jameis Winston and the hurricane-displaced Saints looked right at home in northeast Florida against Green Bay with a 38-3 victory—no doubt to the delight of fans rebuilding homes and lives back in New Orleans.

Winston passed for five touchdowns, New Orleans intercepted reigning NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers twice, and the Saints kicked off the post-Drew Brees era with a strikingly dominant opening victory over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

The game, originally scheduled for the Superdome, was moved while the New Orleans area continues to clean up wreckage left by Hurricane Ida, which struck southeast Louisiana as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29, 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina devastated the same region.

After canceling their final preseason game and practicing two weeks in the Dallas area, the Saints looked as sharp and inspired as any club with such distractions could have hoped.

Winston, who led the NFL with 30 interceptions in his last season as a starter with Tampa Bay in 2019, was largely judicious and accurate in going 14 of 20 for 148 yards without an interception.

Juwan Johnson, who came in with four career catches and was converted from receiver to a tight end this offseason, had two TDs.

Green Bay fans seemed to outnumber Saints fans in a crowd announced at 35,242 for what was officially a Saints home game. But they left disappointed in a day that could not have gone much worse for Rodgers, who was pulled with nearly 11 minutes left. He finished 15 of 28 for 133 yards and no TDs. He led one drive to a field goal at the end of the first half.

New Orleans Saints free safety Marcus Williams, left, intercepts a pass in front of Green Bay Packers wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling (83) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Jacksonville, Fla. AP

Chiefs 33, Browns 29

In Kansas City, Mo., Patrick Mahomes threw for 337 yards and three touchdowns while running for another score, and the Chiefs came back from a dismal first half in a rematch of their divisional playoff game from January.

Tyreek Hill caught 11 passes for 197 yards and a touchdown, and Travis Kelce hauled in a pair of TD catches, including the go-ahead score as the Chiefs finished off their rally from a 22-10 halftime deficit.

The Chiefs won their fifth straight against Cleveland, including their 22-17 playoff victory, and their 15th consecutive game in September. They also pushed Andy Reid within one win of reaching 100 with two franchises.

Dolphins 17, Patriots 16

In Foxborough, Mass., Tua Tagovailoa threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Jaylen Waddle in the third quarter and Xavien Howard recovered a fumble with New England driving in the fourth.

It was Miami's second straight win over the Patriots. Tagovailoa also led the Dolphins to a victory in the second meeting between the teams last season.

Tagovailoa finished 16 of 27 for 202 yards, a touchdown and one interception, and also had a 3-yard TD run to lead a revamped offense that kept the Patriots' rebuilt defense guessing, mixing in no-huddle and empty backfield formations. DeVante Parker caught four passes for 81 yards.

Steelers 23, Bills 16

In Orchard Park, N.Y., Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers' new-look offense overcame a slow start, Ulysees Gilbert returned a blocked punt 9 yards for a touchdown, and Pittsburgh rallied.

Down 10-0, the Steelers scored on each of their first four possessions of the second half, with Roethlisberger putting Pittsburgh ahead for good by lobbing a 5-yard touchdown pass to Diontae Johnson in the left corner of the end zone.

The pass initially went off Johnson's fingertips, but the receiver secured the ball before tumbling out of bounds 3:41 into the fourth quarter. The Steelers extended their lead to 20-10 some 90 seconds later with Miles Killebrew bursting up the middle to block Matt Haack's punt, with Gilbert scooping up the loose ball and running it in untouched.

Cardinals 38, Titans 13

In Nashville, Tenn., Kyler Murray threw four touchdown passes and had another score on a run, and linebacker Chandler Jones had a career-high five sacks.

Jones, who tied the franchise record, had three sacks in a first quarter so good LeBron James chimed in on social media for his Defensive Player of the Year candidacy. Jones, who wants a new contract, also forced two fumbles the Cardinals turned into 14 points.

Murray tormented the Titans throwing for 289 yards with two TD passes apiece to All-Pro wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins and Christian Kirk. Murray's best pass came came early in the third quarter off his back foot to Kirk on a beautiful floater Kirk simply ran under.

Seahawks 28, Colts 16

In Indianapolis, Russell Wilson threw three of his four touchdowns in the first half as the defending NFC West champions won the 12th of their past 13 games in the early Sunday timeslot.

Indy lost its eighth straight opener, the past five with different starting quarterbacks.

Wilson was sensational in his first action with new offensive coordinator Shane Waldron, shredding a top-10 defense that entered the season with even higher aspirations. But against Seattle's revamped offense, Wilson made sure the Colts' defense never had a chance.

Rams 34, Bears 14

In Inglewood, Calif., Matthew Stafford passed for 321 yards and three touchdowns in a dynamic debut with his new team, leading Los Angeles past Andy Dalton and the Chicago Bears.

Stafford found Van Jefferson for a 67-yard touchdown on his second pass for the Rams, who swung a blockbuster offseason trade to acquire the 13-year veteran quarterback from Detroit. Stafford then hit a wide-open Cooper Kupp for a 56-yard TD to open the third quarter, and he found Robert Woods for a clinching score with 3:17 to play.

49ers 41, Lions 33

In Detroit, Dre Greenlaw returned an interception for a touchdown to help the 49ers score 17 points over two-plus minutes late in the first half.

San Francisco led 38-10 early in the fourth quarter and allowed Detroit to score 23 points in three-plus minutes to pull within eight points. But the Lions turned the ball over on downs at the San Francisco 24 with 12 seconds left after getting it back on a fumble by Deebo Samuel.

For most of the afternoon, the 49ers performed more like the Super Bowl-contending team they were two years ago than the 10-loss squad they had last season when injuries took a major toll.

Texans 37, Jaguars 21

In Houston, Tyrod Taylor threw for 291 yards and two touchdowns filling in for Deshaun Watson in a win over Trevor Lawrence and the mistake-prone Jaguars.

Taylor took over at quarterback for Houston with Watson's future with the team uncertain after 22 women filed lawsuits alleging sexual assault or harassment after he requested a trade.

Expectations for the Texans were low entering this season with Watson out and star defensive end J.J. Watt gone to Arizona. But Taylor and Houston's revamped running game were more than enough to handle a Jaguars team that didn't look much better than it was last season—when it got just one win—despite the addition of top overall pick Lawrence.

Chargers 20, Washington 16

In Landover, Md., Justin Herbert threw for 337 yards and a touchdown in an ugly Week 1 matchup full of turnovers and big penalties.

Herbert led scoring drives of 75, 76 and 68 yards, and a go-ahead touchdown pass to Mike Williams made up for his fumble into the end zone and red zone interception on consecutive possessions. The reigning AP Offensive Rookie of the Year and the Chargers went 14 of 19 on third downs, wearing down Washington's defense led by last year's top defensive rookie, Chase Young.

The teams combined for 14 penalties for 151 yards and three giveaways.

Eagles 32, Falcons 6

In Atlanta, Jalen Hurts threw three touchdown passes, the first of them to Heisman Trophy winner DeVonta Smith, and the Eagles made a winner of Nick Sirianni in his head coaching debut.

Now firmly entrenched as the Eagles starter after Carson Wentz was traded, Hurts certainly looked the part with touchdown passes of 18 yards to Smith, 9 yards to Dallas Goedert and 23 yards to Jalen Reagor. Another Philadelphia rookie, fifth-round pick Kenneth Gainwell, scored his first TD as a pro with an 8-yard run late in the third quarter.

Bengals 27, Vikings 24, OT

In Cincinnati, Evan McPherson kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired in overtime. The winning kick was set up by a gutsy call. On fourth-and-inches from the Cincinnati 48, Joe Burrow rolled out and hit tight end C.J. Uzomah in stride for a 32-yard gain and get McPherson well within his range. McPherson had a 53-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

Cincinnati's Germaine Pratt recovered Dalvin Cook's fumble to set up the winning drive. Minnesota challenged the ruling that Cook had fumbled, but it was upheld after a replay review.

Greg Joseph kicked a career-long 53-yard field goal as time ran out in the fourth quarter to tie the game for Minnesota, which had battled back from a 21-7 second-half deficit.

Panthers 19, Jets 14

In Charlotte, N.C., Sam Darnold threw for 279 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score against his former team. Darnold connected on a 57-yard touchdown pass with fellow ex-Jet Robby Anderson and took full advantage of a healthy Christian McCaffrey, who piled up 187 yards from scrimmage on 30 touches after missing 13 games last season with injuries.

Carolina's defense brought the pressure on Jets rookie quarterback Zach Wilson, sacking the No. 2 pick in the NFL draft six times and intercepting him once. Wilson kept battling, though, and finished 20 of 37 for 258 yards with two touchdown passes to Corey Davis in his first career start.

Broncos 27, Giants 13

In East Rutherford, N.J., Teddy Bridgewater threw two touchdowns in his first start for Denver and the Broncos dominated possession.

Acquired in the offseason from Carolina, Bridgewater completed 28 of 36 passes for 264 yards, sharing the ball with nine receivers. The 28-year-old QB hit Tim Patrick on a go-ahead 2-yard TD pass with :08 left in the half. Bridgewater eluded pressure and found tight end Albert Okwuegbunam on a 4-yard, fourth-down toss during a 16-play, 75-yard drive to open the second half, extending the lead to 17-7.

Scherzer near-perfect in milestone game; Dodgers beat Padres

LOS ANGELES, CA (AP)—Max Scherzer got his 3,000th career strikeout and took a perfect game into the eighth inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 8-0 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Scherzer retired his first 22 batters before Eric Hosmer doubled to deep right with one out in the eighth. The crowd of 42,637 saluted Scherzer with a standing ovation after he finished the inning.

The 37-year-old All-Star reached 3,000 career strikeouts in the fifth when Hosmer went down swinging.

Scherzer struck out nine overall on 92 pitches. The three-time Cy Young Award winner threw an immaculate inning in the second with three strikeouts on nine pitches.

The Dodgers remained 2 1/2 games behind the NL West-leading San Francisco Giants.

In a big blow, San Diego starter Blake Snell left after 11 pitches with a left adductor injury.

Corey Seager and Mookie Betts hit solo homers, and Justin Turner added a three-run blast in the seventh to back Scherzer (14-4).

Seager went deep with two outs in the fourth off Dinelson Lamet (2-4).

Los Angeles Dodgers Max Scherzer pitches his 3000th career strikeout with this throw against San Diego Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer in the fifth inning during in a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Los Angeles, Calif. AP

Mets 8, Yankees 7

In New York, Francisco Lindor broke an eighth-inning tie with his third homer, sending a drive into the right-field seats after a pitch tipping spat with Giancarlo Stanton, and the Mets beat the Yankees in a heated Subway Series finale that nearly turned into a brawl.

Lindor hit a three-run homer batting left-handed in the second off on a hanging breaking ball from rookie Clarke Schmidt, had a solo homer in the sixth hitting right-handed on a Wandy Peralta changeup, and broke a 7-7 tie from the left side against Chad Green (7-7).

It was the first career three-homer game for Lindor.

Seth Lugo (4-2) pitched the eighth, and Edwin Díaz got his 29th save in 35 chances.

The Yankees lost for the 12th time in 15 games following a 13-game winning streak and dropped one game behind Boston and Toronto, who led for the two AL wild cards.

The Mets went 4-2 against the Yankees this year and closed within three games for the second NL wild card, but have three teams in front of them.

Cardinals 2, Reds 0

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado homered for the second game in a row and five pitchers combined on a five-hitter as St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

St. Louis has won four of six. The Cardinals began the day two games behind Cincinnati and San Diego for the final NL wild-card spot. Cincinnati has lost five of seven.

Arenado hit a two-run homer in the first off Sonny Gray (7-7), who then retired the next 14 hitters.

St. Louis starter J.A. Happ (9-8) allowed two hits over 5 1/3 innings. Luis Garcia, T.J. McFarland, Genesis Cabrera and Giovanny Gallegos finished, with Gallegos picking up his eighth save in 15 opportunities.

Giants 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Wilmer Flores homered and drove in three runs, Kris Bryant scored two against his former team, and San Francisco hung on against Chicago for its season-high seventh straight win.

Owners of the best record in the majors, the Giants matched their longest streak since a seven-game run in August 2020.

They were rolling along with a 6-3 lead in the seventh before the Cubs scored two while chasing Logan Webb (10-3).

The Cubs had the tying run on in the ninth after Jake McGee gave up a one-out double to pinch-hitter Patrick Wisdom. But Frank Schwindel and Ian Happ each grounded to first to end the game. McGee picked up his 31st save.

Flores matched a career high with his 18th homer when he launched a two-run shot to left against Justin Steele (3-3) in the fifth to stretch the lead to 5-2.

Braves 5, Marlins 3

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies and Freddie Freeman each hit a solo homer off Anthony Bass in the seventh inning, Eddie Rosario went deep off Edward Cabrera in the fourth, and Atlanta beat Miami.

The NL East-leading Braves, going for their fourth consecutive title, padded their lead to 4 1/2 games over the Phillies.

Jacob Webb (4-2) faced the minimum in the seventh to earn the win. Bass (3-8) gave up two runs and two hits.

In the ninth, closer Will Smith allowed a leadoff triple to Jesús Sánchez and issued a one-out walk before retiring the next two batters to earn his 32nd save in 37 chances.

Brewers 11, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Eric Lauer no-hit Cleveland into the sixth inning a day after Milwaukee threw a history-making no-no, and his teammates belted five homers.

Just hours after Corbin Burnes and Josh Hader combined on the record ninth no-hitter in the majors this season—and Cleveland's record third time being no-hit this year—Lauer threatened to make it two in a row. He didn't give up a hit until Ryan Lavarnway singled to center with one out in the sixth.

Lauer (6-5) allowed one run and three hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Kolten Wong and Avisaíl García each homered twice. Manny Piña also connected, and the Brewers moved closer to the NL Central title with a three-game sweep.

Aaron Civale (10-4) allowed seven runs in three innings.

Blue Jays 22, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Teoscar Hernández each hit a grand slam, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. slugged his 44th homer, and Toronto overpowered Baltimore, finishing two runs shy of the franchise record.

Guerrero's drive tied him with Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani for the major league lead. Jake Lamb also homered during a 10-run third inning for the Blue Jays, who took three of the four in the series.

Blue Jays left-hander Steven Matz (12-7) allowed five runs and six hits with six strikeouts and two walks over six innings.

Orioles rookie left-hander Zac Lowther (0-2), recalled from Triple-A Norfolk on Sept. 6, allowed Gurriel's grand slam in the first.

White Sox 2, Red Sox 1

In Chicago, Leury Garcia homered with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Chicago over Boston.

After Boston reliever Garrett Whitlock (8-4) struck out Eloy Jiménez and Yasmani Grandal to begin the inning, Garcia fell behind 0-2 before hitting a 98 mph fastball over the center-field fence. It was the fifth homer of the season for Garcia, who is filling in at shortstop with starter Tim Anderson on the injured list.

Chicago took a 1-0 lead and a three-hit shutout into the ninth before Craig Kimbrel (4-4) struggled with his control, allowing a hit and two walks before Alex Verdugo's tying sacrifice fly.

Rangers 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits and two RBIs, Taylor Hearn won his fourth straight start and Texas put another dent in Oakland's playoff hopes.

The A's, who began the day two games behind the New York Yankees for the second AL wild card, have lost 17 of 26.

Hearn (6-4) did not walk a batter for the third consecutive start and retired 16 of 17 after giving up back-to-back singles in the first.

Danny Santana pitched two scoreless innings. Joe Barlow worked the ninth for his sixth save.

Kiner-Falefa's two-run single in the third off A's starter James Kaprielian (7-5) gave the Rangers an early lead.

Astros 3, Angels 1

In Houston, Lance McCullers Jr. threw six strong innings, Kyle Tucker homered and Houston beat Los Angeles.

McCullers (12-4) permitted one run on three hits with seven strikeouts. He won his third straight decision and has allowed two runs or fewer in three straight starts.

Tucker hit a tiebreaking two-run homer to right-center off Jose Quijada (0-1) in the fifth.

Ryne Stanek pitched a perfect seventh, Kendall Graveman worked the eighth and Ryan Pressly closed it out for his 24th save.

Diamondbacks 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Tyler Gilbert gave up two hits in another sharp outing, Ketel Marte homered and Arizona beat Seattle.

Arizona did more damage to the Mariners' AL wild-card hopes. Seattle is now three games behind Boston for the second wild-card spot with the Red Sox coming to town Monday for a three-game series.

The Diamondbacks broke open a 1-1 game with four consecutive hits off reliever Anthony Misiewicz (4-5) to start the sixth inning.

Gilbert (2-2) allowed two hits—solo home runs by Mitch Haniger in the fourth and Dylan Moore in the sixth—over 5 1/3 innings.

J.B. Wendelken gave up a two-run homer to Jarred Kelenic in the ninth but finished with a strikeout and a putout at first to earn his first save.

Rockies 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Garrett Hampson homered twice and knocked in all five runs as Colorado dealt another blow to Philadelphia's playoff hopes.

Both of Hampson's homers came on 0-2 pitches—a three-run shot in the fifth inning on a hanging curveball by Phillies starter Aaron Nola and tie-breaking a two-run blast in the seventh off Hector Neris (2-6).

The Phillies fell 4 1/2 games behind NL East-leading Atlanta with 18 games to play.

Reliever Ashton Goudeau (1-0) pitched two innings for the win. Carlos Estevez worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Tigers 8, Rays 7, 11 innings

In Detroit, Robbie Grossman drew a bases-loaded walk in the 11th inning, Jeimer Candelario homered twice, and Detroit beat Tampa Bay.

The walk issued by J.P. Feyereisen (4-4) brought in Victor Reyes.

Candelario's second homer, a two-run shot, tied the game in the 10th after the Rays took a 7-5 lead in the top of the inning. Kyle Funkhouser (7-3) pitched a scoreless inning to pick up the win.

Yandy Diaz doubled twice and drove in three runs for Tampa Bay. Brett Phillips hit a two-run homer during the Rays' four-run eighth. Nelson Cruz also homered for the Rays, his 31st.

Royals 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Kyle Isbel drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the eighth inning and Kansas City beat Minnesota.

Adalberto Mondesi homered for the Royals and Whit Merrifield had three hits, including a pair of doubles.

A quartet of relievers combined for 3 2/3 scoreless innings. Jake Brentz (4-2) struck out two in the seventh, Josh Staumont worked out of a jam in the eighth and Scott Barlow finished for his 12th save.

Isbel's single off Jorge Alcala (3-6) got just past diving second baseman Luis Arraez and rolled into right field to score pinch-runner Hunter Dozier.

Nationals 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Patrick Corbin worked seven strong innings as Washington avoided a three-games sweep at Pittsburgh.

Corbin (8-14) allowed two runs on four hits, striking out four with two walks.

Lane Thomas hit a three-run homer in the fourth off Bryse Wilson (2-7) to put the Nationals in front to stay. Luis Garcia and Alex Avila also homered for Washington. Juan Soto doubled and tripled and is hitting .407 (22 of 54) over his last 16 games.

Medvedev overcomes pressure, Djokovic to win US Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Daniil Medvedev had outplayed the man he considers the best ever in tennis for about two hours. Then it was time to finish off Novak Djokovic.

That's when Medvedev's serve and his body started to falter. He double-faulted on his first match point. He did the same thing on his next one while trying to end Djokovic's quest for a calendar-year Grand Slam.

"Second one was like in the middle of the net," Medvedev said.

Eventually, he overcame the pressure and his opponent, beating Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday in the U.S. Open for his first Grand Slam title.

Medvedev had lost both previous times he played in a major final, with Djokovic beating him in straight sets this year at the Australian Open.

"After the final in Australia, we had the feeling that Daniil didn't have this fire that can help your game to be much stronger, especially against a player like Novak," said Gilles Cervara, Medvedev's coach. "So this had to change, for sure, to play this final at another level.

"Our feeling yesterday and today was that he was ready to compete and to be at high level."

The Russian has been there for a while, especially on hard courts. He leads all men's players in wins and titles on that surface since 2018 and had reached the U.S. Open semifinals in each of the last three years.

At his best, he is as good as anyone on a hard court—and way better than Djokovic on Sunday.

Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, reacts after scoring a point against Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in New York. AP

"I mean, he was hitting his spots very well," Djokovic said. "He came out very determined on the court. You could feel that he was just at (the) highest of his abilities in every shot."

Especially on his serve, which Cervara felt hadn't been good enough this summer. Medvedev had 16 aces and put constant pressure on Djokovic with his serve, winning 42 of 52 points on first serve.

"He served very good today," Cervara said. "Maybe not at the end, but with the pressure, the tension, it's a bit different."

Medvedev took a long pause between serves to wait out some fan noise on his first match point while leading 5-3. He didn't think the crowd was trying to heckle them, he figured the fans just wanted to see Djokovic prolong the match.

The No. 1 player did, then held to cut it to 5-4.

"My legs were gone after 5-3. At 5-4, left leg, I almost couldn't walk," Medvedev said. "If you really look at the replay, when I walked to the towel, my leg was just going behind. I was trying not to show it. If Novak feels it, it's not good."

The next match point produced another sloppy serve before Medvedev banged one in at 129 mph that Djokovic couldn't get back into play.

Medvedev then fell slowly and awkwardly to the court, explaining that that move was a nod to a goal celebration in a soccer video game.

His real celebration was still to come.

"Russians know how to celebrate," Medvedev said. "Hopefully, I will not get in the news. If I (do), it's going to be in a good way. But I'm going to definitely celebrate the next few days."

ANTONI

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"Knowing that both my parents played on the CNMI national team for their respective sports only gives me more motivation to represent my home island in the sport if an invitation is ever presented to me," he said.

He also admitted that his parents remain his biggest inspiration.

"The stories they told when I was younger about how they were both aggressive and competitive players in their sports has helped me continue that same mentality in my game. They've made it easier for me to understand the little things you've got to do to not just be a better player and person on the court, but off the court as well… I chose to the play the sport of basketball because it was a fun team sport and my dad used to play it."

Ogumoro said the strongest part of his game is his footwork and inside/outside moves, but admits that he needs to work on his ball handling and consistency with his perimeter shooting.

As an inspiration to athletes in the CNMI, Ogumoro has the following advice to the youth back home: "My advice would be that if you have a real passion for the sport, think beyond just playing in the islands because CNMI basketball does have talent it's just are you willing to make the sacrifices and not be distracted by the little things to take your skills to the next level. Cancel out all your bad influences and just keep working."

Ambrose and Mayumi are pretty proud of their son's achievements in the basketball court. "While he doesn't have any college offers at the moment, he is making a name for himself with a lot of coaches and media throughout the state," said Ambrose.

He added in jest that while his AAU coaches have been pretty inspirational to Antoni's journey, a former Duke player actually is his son's favorite player.

"Both give him a lot of advice about the game and what to expect at the next level...but he's more of a Duke fan at the moment because his favorite player, Zion Williamson, played their but that could change."

Antoni Ogumoro's grandparents are Ambrosio Ogumoro and Felicidad Kaipat Ogumoro of Capital Hill and Rufino and Carol Aguon of Kagman. Rufino Aguon incidentally is Ambrose Ogumoro's former coach in the CNMI national basketball team.

BACHANI

From Page 20

"I twisted my ankle twice but it was a great run," she said.

When asked what's next for her after topping the girls 18-and-under division of the Gecko 5000, she said it will be to win the cross country series.

"Maybe try and get a faster run for the cross country run soon. Maybe get first place for the women," she said.

Chavez's teammate, Tiana Cabrera, came in second with a time of 24:35, while MHS' Allyssa Angeles prevented a Lady Geckos sweep after coming in third with a 26:07.

Chavez and Cabrera also towed SIS to victory in the high school girls division with 12 points.

In the girls 9-and-under, SIS finished 1-2-3 with Windsor Gross (8:06) topping the event followed by Neveah Arriola (8:27) and Leilani Ruszala (8:36). With 13 points, SIS also topped the girls division of the age group.

SIS' Jude Rayphand was first in the boys 9-and-under with a time of 7:06. He was followed by Garapan Elementary School's Kanoa Owens (7:46) and Brilliant Star School's Evan Poole (7:59). SIS won the category with a whopping 25 points.

Eliza Culp and Lucy Woo finished first and second in the girls 12-and-under race with times of 8:30 and 8:31, respectively. Saipan Community School's Alyssa Pailin Brasuell was third in 8:31. SIS topped the division with 17 points.

The boys 12-and-under then saw Finn Altizer of SIS cross the finish line first in 7:00 followed by BSS' Akeen Edvalson (7:18) and SIS' Ju-Won Lee (9:43). SIS again took the plum in age group with 10 points.

In the 2-mile race for middle school girls, SCS' Morgan Finco won gold with her time of 16:30. SIS' Suki Peng (16:44) and SCS' Abbie Kim (17:26) came in second and third, respectively. With 19 points, SIS also took the division.

The middle school boys race saw SIS' Moshe Sikkel dominate with a time of 14:53. Grace Christian Academy's Takery Jim was second in 15:54, while SIS' Sean Park completed the Top 3 in 16:15. GCA took the age group with 17 points.

Named after school's mascot and the distance of the race of 5,000m, the Gecko 5000 was organized by Saipan International School with help from Northern Marianas Athletics, Run Saipan, and the Public School System. Sponsors of the event include Cafe Hei, MARPAC, Casa de Song, Spicy Thai, Chung A, Smile Marianas, Chalan Pial Supermarket, JP World Corp., Brothers Clinic, Twins Market, JWS, Mango Six, Himawari Restaurant, Eun Song and Bori, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Ginen Saipan, The Water Company, and The Athletes Foot.

KIO

From Page 20

the second that allowed Kio to take a comfortable 37-20 spread at the half.

It would only go from bad to worse as the third quarter transpired with Robert Reyes this time taking over the scoring cudgels. When the fourth quarter finally rolled around, Kio was enjoying a 23-point lead against a hapless SMA Flyers crew.

Sanchez then got much needed support from Heinz Cabrera and Kim King in the game's final 10 minutes to complete the wire-to-wire victory. Reyes top-scored for Kio with 20 points, while Sanchez and Kim also finished in double figures with 13 and 11 markers, respectively.

Jan Doria led SMA Flyers in defeat with 14 points, while Jason Doria was the only other double-digit scorer for the team with 10 points. SMA Flyers dropped to 1-4 in the team standings.

In the other game last Friday, Team CNMI hiked its win-loss record to 2-3 after beating Power Builders, 61-49.

CNMI raced to an 18-11 lead after the first canto led by the 4 points apiece of Fritz San Nicolas and Anthony Borja. Power Builders, however, would rally in the second and managed to cut their deficit to a matchstick, 29-30, led by the 10 points of J.R. Libut.

Both teams were engaged in a veritable dogfight in the third quarter. Elaina Santos and Louise Maligson tossed in 4 markers each for CNMI, while Libut continued his scoring spree with 6 more points. The game was still in the balance with CNMI only leading by a deuce, 45-43.

CNMI then managed to create some separation against Power Builders in the final 10 minutes of the contests thanks to Borja firing 8 of his game-high 15 points. Libut lost some steam at the end and so was Power Builders' chances of overcoming CNMI and logging its first win of the season.

Santos and San Nicolas back-stopped Borja with 9 and 8 markers, respectively, while Libut shone all game long for Power Builders with 23 points.

Team Kio 79 – Reyes 20, Sanchez 13, K. King 11, Cabrera 9, J. Sablan 7, B. Sablan 7, D. Sablan 6, S. King 2, Repeki 2, Kiyoshi 2.

SMA Flyers 45 – Ja. Doria 14, J. Doria 10, Casilla 8, Villagracia 7, Olivar 6, K. Borja 6, Manansala 6,

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 37-20, 57-34, 79-45.

Team CNMI 61 – A. Borja 15, Santos 9, San Nicolas 8, Kwon 8, Manansala 5, Lizama 2, Palacios 2.

Power Builders 49 – A. Libut 23, Castro 6, D. Libut 4, Sanchez 4, Apatan 4, Orbigo 4, Delos Reyes 2, Roaga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-11, 30-29, 45-43, 61-49.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	89	54	.622	–
Boston	81	64	.559	9
Toronto	80	63	.559	9
New York	79	64	.552	10
Baltimore	46	97	.322	43

Central Division

Chicago	82	61	.573	–
Cleveland	69	72	.489	12
Detroit	68	76	.472	14½
Kansas City	65	78	.455	17
Minnesota	63	80	.441	19

West Division

Houston	83	59	.585	–
Oakland	77	66	.538	6½
Seattle	77	66	.538	6½
Los Angeles	70	73	.490	13½
Texas	53	89	.373	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	76	66	.535	–
Philadelphia	72	71	.503	4½
New York	72	72	.500	5
Miami	60	83	.420	16½
Washington	59	84	.413	17½

Central Division

Milwaukee	89	55	.618	–
Cincinnati	75	69	.521	14
St. Louis	73	69	.514	15
Chicago	65	79	.451	24
Pittsburgh	52	91	.364	36½

West Division

San Francisco	93	50	.650	–
Los Angeles	91	53	.632	2½
San Diego	74	68	.521	18½
Colorado	66	78	.458	27½
Arizona	47	96	.329	46

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	17	16
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	16	23
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	14	19
New England	0	1	0	.000	16	17

South

Houston	1	0	0	1.000	37	21
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	16	28
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	21	37
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	13	38

North

Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	27	24
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	23	16
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	29	33

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000	27	13
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	33	29
L.A. Chargers	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
Las Vegas	0	0	0	.000	0	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	32	6
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	29	31
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	13	27
Washington	0	1	0	.000	16	20

South

Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	19	14
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	38	3
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	31	29
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	6	32

North

Chicago	0	1	0	.000	14	34
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	33	41
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	3	38
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	24	27

West

Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	38	13
L.A. Rams	1	0	0	1.000	34	14
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	41	33
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	28	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medvedev overcomes pressure, Djokovic to win US Open PAGE 19

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Displaced Saints rout struggling Rodgers and Packers, 38-3 PAGE 17

Antoni is No. 11 power forward in NC

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The future of CNMI basketball is also the past of the islands' rich basketball and volleyball traditions.

As 6'5" Antoni Ogumoro is the son of former CNMI national basketball team member Ambrose Ogumoro and his wife, former CNMI national volleyball team member, Mayumi Aguon.

Now, the 14-year-old, 220-lb phenom is making waves of his own after being ranked No. 11 overall among power forwards in the basketball-crazed state of North Carolina. He was also included in the CP3 Rising Stars lineup. CP3 of course refers to former Demon Decon Chris Paul of Wake Forest University.

Ogumoro is about to start his freshman year at White Oak High School and currently plays AAU ball for the Carolina Heights. Incidentally, according to his father, Carolina Heights is coached by two former North Carolina Tar Heels—Ed Cota and Julius Peppers. The former played professionally in Europe and earned numerous accolades during his time as a Tar Heel, while Peppers was only the No. 2 overall pick of the 2002 NFL Draft for the Carolina Panthers.

Photo shows 6'5" Antoni Ogumoro in action for Carolina Heights in an AAU game. The son of former CNMI national team members Ambrose Ogumoro (basketball) and Mayumi Aguon (volleyball) is currently ranked No. 11 in power forwards in North Carolina. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In an email interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, Ogumoro said while he's glad to be ranked 11th in the state, he just wants to work harder on his basketball game to improve more.

"The recognition feels good but I don't like paying too much attention to rankings. I do appreciate that coaches and the media see that I'm putting in the work."

He said his ultimate goal is to make it to the zenith of the sport—the NBA.

"My main dream as far as basketball is to continue to excel in the sport and make it to the next level. Being an incoming freshman and with basketball tryouts in November, my goal right now is to make it on the varsity basketball team. The ultimate goal is it to make it to the NBA as it is a dream of mine, but will take it one step at a time and if my path in the future leads me to play basketball professionally, then everything I'm working to improve on now will have paid off," he said.

Ogumoro, who first pick up a basketball when he was 5 years old, also said it'll be an honor to don the CNMI's colors in the future.

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Bachani, Chavez finish first in HS

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas High School's Dev Bachani and Saipan International School's Kaithlyn Chavez were the first to the finish line in the high school division of the Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 held last Saturday in Marpi.

Bachani took the gold in the 5-kilometer event for boys after crossing the finisher's arch in Banzai Cliff in 20:41. He said the run was good training for the upcoming cross country season.

"It was really good. It was nice and shady and it was a good environment and the view was great. I just jumped over the rocks. I wasn't surprised I came first. Me and him (closest pursuer) were close but after the trail I got a little lead," he said.

Second and third was literally a neck-and-neck battle with Saipan International School's Rex Pixley (21:10) nosing out MHS' Cody Shimizu (21:11).

With Bachani and Shimizu leading the way, MHS won the Gecko 5000 high school boys division with 16 points.

Marianas High School's Dev Bachani topped the boys high school division of the of the Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 held last Saturday in Marpi. LAO ZHANG

Chavez finished first among the high school girls after registering a 22:49 for the 5-km run. She said she won gold despite some small mishaps during the run.

Saipan International School's Kaithlyn Chavez topped the girls high school division of the of the Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 held last Saturday in Marpi. JONATHAN IBAJAN

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Team Kio's Lucio Sanchez shoots against SMA Flyers' Tanley Villagarcia in their 2021 Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League game last Friday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kio keeps pace with Devil Dog in Tinian caging

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Kio remained unbeaten after walloping SMA Flyers, 79-45, in the continuation of the 2021 Island-wide Men's BudLight Basketball League last Friday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Kio, who played fellow undefeated Devil Dog Warriors last night, recorded its fifth straight win after outscoring SMA Flyers in the pivotal second quarter.

After a relatively tight first quarter that saw Rio only lead by 6 markers, 19-13, Dustin Sablan and Lucio Sanchez presided over an 18-7 route of SMA Flyers in

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